



**At the Crossroads of Cyber Warfare:
Signposts for the Royal Australian Air Force**

by

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APPROVAL

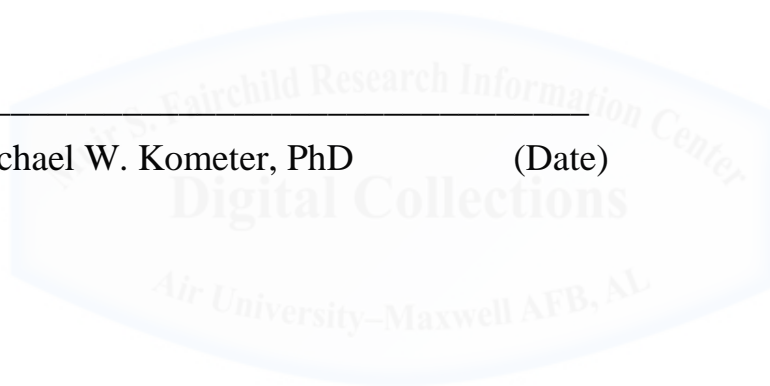
The undersigned certify that this thesis meets master's-level standards of research, argumentation, and expression.

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DISCLAIMER

The conclusions and opinions expressed in this document are those of the author. They do not reflect the official position of the US Government, Australian Government, Departments of Defense, the United States Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, or Air University.



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ABSTRACT

This thesis provides signposts to guide the Royal Australian Air Force during its journey through the development of a cyber capability. As with most journeys, there are always multiple paths; the challenge is to choose a path that will deliver an effective cyber force with the available resources.

The emergence of cyberspace changed the character of war in ways Clausewitz could never have imagined. Cyber violence transcends the physical environment, creating effects on an adversary's warfighting capabilities as severe as a kinetic weapon. Uncertainty, the fog that envelopes all aspects of conflict, remains ever-present; however, cyber enables commanders greater situation awareness, shifting the shade of fog from opaque to translucent. The ambiguities of identity and effects that exist in cyberspace juxtapose with the speed and span of cyber operations, reducing, but not eliminating, uncertainty.

The Australian Government's 2008 National Security Statement shaped the national cyber environment and raised the profile of cyber within the 2009 Defence White Paper. With new-found direction to pursue cyberspace as warfighting domain, the Royal Australian Air Force is looking to move forward on the development of a cyber force but faces numerous hurdles in its path. At the forefront of these hurdles is an appreciation of just what effects the Air Force seeks from cyberspace. The development of a concept of operations would be a significant signpost to guide the shaping of a cyber force. At the heart of this force will be personnel--air-minded cyber specialists who will plan, coordinate, and integrate cyber operations in support of air power. However, to raise-train-and-sustain an air-minded cyber force is an undertaking that requires long-term commitment and support from the senior Air Force leadership, without which an effective cyber capability for the Royal Australian Air Force will be unattainable.

The effects of cyber operations are real, and permeate across all warfighting domains. If the Royal Australian Air Force is to fulfill its responsibility to deliver air power in the defense of the Australia, it must honor the cyber threat and accelerate its journey to develop a cyber force.

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INTRODUCTION

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has just begun its journey of developing a credible cyber force. Never normally shy about embracing new technologies to enhance the capabilities of air power, the RAAF has, however, made little progress in raising, training, and sustaining the type of workforce needed to operate effectively in the cyber environment. Perhaps it is because cyber is just emerging as a warfighting domain, and the RAAF is looking for guidance from the Joint Operations Command; after all the Air Force is inherently a joint fighting force. Maybe it is looking to develop a concept of operations that will steer the development of a cyber force. Alternatively, a focus on the kinetic applications of air power may have drawn attention from an appreciation of how a cyber attack could influence the nation and the RAAF's ability to deliver air power. The following brief tale provides an insight into what Australia, the Australian Defence Force, and the RAAF could face in a few years if they do not follow the signposts to develop a cyber future.

A Tale of Chaos Reigns Supreme

Picture a liberal-democratic country that operates within the bounds of regional norms. The population accords the responsibility for security to the government and pays taxes to fund the undertaking. The military is delegated the tasks of protecting the country and population from any attacking forces. Air, sea, land, space, and cyberspace are the avenues through which an opposing force can traverse its borders to attack the population and their treasures. The military fields an army, navy, and air force as the means of protection. These services control the domains in their region and block any opponent's army, navy, air force, or space capabilities from getting through to the country. But what about cyberspace? The military bears the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the air, land, sea, and space environment, and shares joint custody of the security of cyberspace with the government, the private sector, and the population. The government has allowed the private sector and individuals to hold the responsibility for securing their portion of cyberspace. The population generally appreciates this because they rely on cyberspace for nearly everything in life and want continued unfettered access.

Chaos begins. The morning of 25 November 2015 starts like any of the days over the past few months. The second global economic crisis in five years has affected every country in the region, with the cost of living increasing, trade decreasing, and a growing imbalance in wealth between regional countries. Our country is affected, but not as much as others are in the region. Our military has been able to repel the few military maritime and air intrusions, with the army defenses strong but untested. No regional power has an offensive space capability, so that is not an area of contention. Suddenly all the Automatic Teller Machines in the country stop working. The population complains to the banks, which raise their hands in exasperation, indicating it is not their fault. Next, traffic lights malfunction for thirty minutes or so, and then fail altogether. Rapidly, intermittent faults spread over the power grid, water control systems, air traffic control, and the stock exchange. Without a stable power system, information systems are disrupted. Citizens trying to access private-sector and governmental websites find the servers have crashed.

Air Force in chaos. The Air Force tries to scramble its fighters to provide a defensive air umbrella in case this cyber attack is a prelude to a ground invasion. But the airbase refueling system does not respond to computer commands to transfer jet fuel from the storage area to the flightline, so the jets have insufficient fuel to fly combat patrols. This would have been inconsequential anyway as the Squadron's planning systems appear corrupted, and the data used to synchronize the aircrafts' communication and weapon systems cannot be transferred from the computer systems onto the aircraft. Even if the fighters could get airborne, they could neither speak to anyone nor target their weapons on anything. The maintenance flight is wondering why they have received boxes of toys from FEDEX, and the local hospital is catching their head with all the boxes of engine, radar, and radio parts that turned up in their shipping dock. Air-defense radar units are reporting clear screens, while the air traffic control tower is telling the command post that civil airliners are circling overhead requesting permission to land. Even the instrument landing systems are malfunctioning. The military has combat forces at the ready, but with limited combat capabilities.

The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that monitors and directs the country's primary dam facilities sends uncommanded signals to open the floodgates, creating widespread damage to crops and buildings. The military tries to

assure the government and population that the country's air, sea, space, and land environments are intact, so there is no physical threat to the country; news of the floodwater did not reach them. However, with the country's information systems disrupted, the message is difficult to get out and general panic erupts.

The military and the government rapidly establish they are under a cyber attack from an unknown actor. Because the military and government are responsible for their own cyber security, the majority of their essential information systems are protected and functional. However, it is quickly apparent to both organizations that many of their capabilities are degraded to varying degrees because of reliance on information systems housed in the private sector. Power, petrol, telephones, blackberries, and the internet are just some of the commercial items the military and the government rely upon for the conduct of their activities. Despite the efforts of the military and government, instead of being a steadfast barrier like those of the other domains, the cyber firewall is constructed of chicken wire instead of steel. The country learnt a valuable lesson known to football coaches for generations: the effectiveness of defense is only as good as the weakest element.

What Happened and Who is to Blame?

In the aftermath of the attack on the country, the finger of blame needed ice as it was pointed in so many directions. The military and government held up their records indicating that even though their information systems were attacked, the information itself remained relatively intact, even if it was inaccessible. The private sector acknowledged that their security systems were found wanting, but they will be addressed and will do better in the future. The population, many of whose computers were used in the botnet attack, is still asking questions of responsibility. After all, was the country not attacked, and is it not the responsibility of the government to provide security of the country? Should the population expect protection from any form of attack from an outside actor? Are there some forms of external attack from which the population must defend itself? If so, can the population legally respond against the other country or actor in self-defense?

ADF and cyber. What is the role of the Government and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in the conduct of cyber operations that support the national security strategy? The release of the 2009 Defence White Paper, the National Cyber security Strategy, the

opening of the Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC), and the standing up of the Australian National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) go a long way to addressing many of the questions in the scenario.

The missing link. What is yet to be addressed is the role the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will have in the conduct of cyber operations at the national level, in the joint organization, and internal to its service activities. There is no question that cyberspace is critical to the conduct of national security, the sustainment of the private sector, and maintenance of lifestyle. Equally, cyber operations are essential to the RAAF capability to provide swift, decisive, and resilient air and space power for Australia's security; and to maintain the respect of the Australian population and government, as well as foreign audiences.

The Road to Cyber Awareness

For more than three decades, global military forces have engaged in some form of digital warfare. As with all modern militaries, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) embraced the use of computers across all operational levels, including management, acquisition, logistics and the entire spectrum of its operations. The ADF as a joint organization, and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as a service, consider operations in the cyber domain integral to the nature of their core functions. In 2002, the ADF published its doctrinal approach to warfare (Force 2020) in which it foresaw the importance of transitioning from a platform centric organization to a force focused on network-enabled operations. This vision of the future, conceptualized in the ADF's Network Centric Warfare (NCW) roadmap issued in 2007, sought to transition the Australian military from a network-aware to a network-enabled force by 2014. While Force 2020 and the NCW roadmap provided guidance on platforms, they provided little insight into a priority or structure for the ADF or the RAAF in the conduct of cyber warfare. The 2009 Defence White Paper provided some clarity by indentifying cyber warfare as critical to the maintenance of national security, but left open the most important issue: should cyber warfare be a joint engagement or a service oriented fight? The RAAF, while developing into an effects-based force, struggles to emerge from its history as a platform-centric, kinetic-focused organization. As such, the RAAF has yet to develop a

coherent plan for where cyber warfare fits into its warfighting approach and what its role will be in the ADF's cyber warfare organization.

Research Question

How should the Royal Australian Air Force develop its role in Australian Defence Force cyber warfare operations?

Thesis Overview

This thesis steps through a number of areas that are essential to understanding how the RAAF can develop a cyber force that supports its air power needs. Like any journey, there are a number of milestones to reach, and in the Air Force's case, these are obtained through an appreciation of the various environments that shape its cyber requirements. To answer the thesis question, the research will investigate command and control in cyberspace and provide the reader with an overview of cyber and its relation to Information Operations. The role the RAAF should take in cyber warfare is shaped by Australia's security strategy and, in particular, the most recent Defence White Paper and the National Cyber Strategy. From these documents, the research will develop a picture of cyber in the Australian military with insights from its international partners, the United States and the United Kingdom. It will then build an organizational framework around the RAAF's responsibilities to raise, train, and sustain air power capabilities to bracket the considerations required to build a cyber workforce. This analysis will enable a series of recommendations for the direction the RAAF should take in its future development of cyber warfare.

Chapter 1. Command and control in cyberspace requires a shift in thinking from the kinetic understanding of violence to a broader appreciation of violence as an effect rather than a physical action. Violence is often espoused as an innate tendency of war, but the emergence of the cyber domain brings into question whether violence should only be in the province of the physical. The expansion of cyber technology has for some warriors provided a promise to lift the fog of uncertainty that has cloaked the true picture of battlefield operations. However, uncertainty is omnipresent in war and commanders must embrace the chaos inherent in conflict. Cyber does not remove uncertainty; rather it

provides the opportunity for greater rationality in decision-making because of enhanced situational awareness. But improved awareness brings with it the debate on centralization of control--the 5000-mile screwdriver remote commanders can now wield through the marvels of cyber technology. Cyberspace is enabling greater flexibility to the commander in the control of his forces, but it is best viewed as a medium that allows greater adjustment of centralization rather than a reason to take over just because you can.

Chapter 2. Appreciation of cyber warfare's influence on air power requires an understanding of the terminology specific to the cyber domain. Land, air, sea, and space are firmly entrenched as warfighting domains, but accepting cyberspace as a separate and unique domain is critical to success in the modern battlefield. The problem is that for nearly every cyber-related piece of doctrine or academic publication there is a different definition for cyberspace. Settling on an agreed-upon meaning will make it easier to identify where cyber fits into the hierarchy of information that runs from data through to wisdom. Cyber is centered on the exchange and processing of information, thus cyber permeates throughout Information Operations. The RAAF must accept that Computer Network Operations are growing in complexity beyond what was envisioned in doctrine's understanding of Information Operations. Issues such as the attribution of a cyber attack make development of cyber deterrence difficult and complicate targeted response. However, balanced against the challenges are the significant benefits cyber offers to the warfighter. The RAAF is embracing Network Centric Warfare as a process to improve the decision-making cycle. It is within this process where the possibility exists to lift some of the fog that is omnipresent in conflict. Network Centric Warfare is not the same as cyber operations, though many core features operate through cyberspace. In the development of a cyber force, the RAAF needs to be aware of the differences in these functions if it is to develop an effective cyber capability.

Chapter 3. Each country approaches national security from a different perspective, and Australia's geographic and strategic environment shapes its approach to cyber security. The Prime Minister's 2008 National Security Statement provided a launching pad for a national approach to cyber security. The Prime Minister's statement formed a nexus between the broader national Cyber Security Strategy and the ADF's cyber strategy embedded in the 2009 Defence White Paper. The Government made it

clear that private and public sectors, along with the operators of critical infrastructure, were responsible for the security of their information systems. However, under the Department of the Attorney-General, a number of initiatives, such as the Computer Emergency Response Team and Trusted Infrastructure Security Network, would provide support and information to help better protect the non-government entities from the impacts of cyber attack. Responsibility for government cyber-security, including those of the ADF, vests in the Cyber Security Operations Centre, an element of the Defense Signals Directorate. If the RAAF wants to influence the development of future cyber capabilities it needs to grow its cyber representation within the Defense Signals Directorate.

Chapter 4. So what does cyber mean to the ADF? Like most questions, the answer depends on whom you ask. The Department of Defence differentiates responsibilities into two camps; security of government information systems and Computer Network Operations in support of military operations. The ADF appreciates the importance of cyber to its future effectiveness as a fighting force, though it is lagging in efforts to raise a cyber force. Make no mistake, cyber operations are inherently joint; but there is little movement in the development of any effective joint cyber capability. The ADF has embraced Network Centric Warfare, in which cyber is a key ingredient, but this is a long-term transformation of its entire warfighting system to enable it to fight as a whole rather than individual parts. From the service perspective, the RAAF has to grapple with the question, “is cyber superiority possible?” Absolute superiority is probably not possible; however, cyber operations can enable asymmetric advantage in decision-making that can be the decisive factor in an air campaign. The key to cyber supporting air power is the development of an air-minded cyber force. Cyber specialists can be employed to support the security of government information systems, but the Air Force needs cyber operators with the insight into what is relevant to the air fight. Air-minded cyber operators can integrate into the air component planning teams and provide the air perspective in a joint cyber environment. Target development, collateral-damage assessment, weaponizing, and collection management are all as important to cyber operations as they are in the kinetic realm, and only cyber specialists with a grasp of air

power can do justice to these functions. Without an air-minded cyber force, the RAAF will continue to become increasingly vulnerable to cyber attacks.

Chapter 5. The RAAF is responsible to the Australian people for the delivery of air power in the defense of the nation. Without an effective cyber capability, the ability to deliver on this responsibility is questionable. However, building a cyber force will be neither cheap nor easy. Fiscal pressures will constrain the capacity to conduct the full range of cyber operations that may be required. Alongside budgets and equipment needs, is a requirement to adjust its force structure and modify the organization. Competing mission requirements will place pressure on redistributing the work force required to build a cyber force. Perhaps the easiest but most debated element of raising a cyber force will be where it fits inside the organization. Cyber warfare is more than Information Operations, with a separate mission, distinct skill sets, and a different focus in the support of air power. The RAAF will need to stand up a separate and unique cyber squadron, tasked with training its cyber force, developing air-specialized cyber capabilities, and liaising with the other services and joint cyber elements for synchronization of effort. Critically, the cyber squadron will be the nucleus for the cyber operational planning teams (COPTs) that will be the sharp end of the RAAF cyber capability. COPTs will conduct the planning, synchronization, coordination, and in some cases execute cyber operations in support of air tasking. Air-minder cyber specialists will integrate into the Joint Operations Command and any Joint Task Force cyber teams to provide the air perspective to operational planning activities.

The greatest challenge in developing a cyber force will be raising, training, and sustaining the people who form the core of a capability. The Air Force needs a cyber force now, because conflict in the cyber domain is not something the Air Force faces in the future, it is a reality today. A multifaceted recruiting effort, targeting officers, airmen, and civilians, is required to build the cyber force. Technical and academic curricula across most RAAF training institutions should reflect some element of cyber, just as air power is fused into most training and education. The Air Force needs to shape, train, and develop the cyber mind of not only its specialists, but also the senior leadership and broader RAAF population. Cyber is not a passing fad, it is not a technology, but an emerging warfighting domain that must be embraced if future air power is to be effective.

Chapter 1

COMMAND AND CONTROL IN CYBERSPACE

The Effect of the Medium on War

Throughout history, the arrival of a new technological age has heralded a shift in the character of war. The invention of the train with its mass transportation capability during the industrial revolution enabled a growth in armies that went from forces measured in thousands into armies of hundreds of thousands, and eventually millions. The development of the airplane, with its speed and range, added the vertical dimension to the battlefield, forever changing the mobility, firepower, and communication characteristics of maneuver warfare. The space age, with missiles that cross continental divides in under 30 minutes, and satellites that provide persistent surveillance of battlefields, transformed the concepts of global response and battlespace awareness. The information age, with the advent of cyberspace, heralded changes in decision-making timelines from weeks, days, hours, and minutes, into operations measured in seconds. As the character of war has changed, so have the concepts of command and control. This chapter argues that while the information age has not altered the nature of war, the influences of cyberspace have changed both the character of war and the practices of command and control.

There are many types of war, but all wars share the same nature, or as espoused by Clausewitz, the innate tendencies of violence, hatred, and enmity.¹ Each tendency is intrinsically separate, but inherently linked to the others to form a phenomenon that endures as the nature of war. These tendencies are constants in every type of war, even when the characteristics of each war change. No two wars occur for the same reason or are conducted the same way. The character, or distinguishing quality of a war, is shaped by influences such as the belligerents' politics, morals, religion, geography, economics, technical capabilities, or security environment. The Crusades, the series of religiously sanctioned military campaigns during medieval times, are distinguishable from World War I, not so much by the level of violence, but by the differing catalysts for conflict—

¹ Carl von Clausewitz, Michael Eliot Howard, and Peter Paret, *On War*, Rev ed. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984), 89.

religion versus geopolitics. Similarly, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm were both preventive wars, distinguishable by their differences in politics, geography, and particularly technology. David Lonsdale argues chance, uncertainty, and the ever-present friction in war ensure that ‘war is far from being a wholly predictable activity’, thus the character of a war can rarely be accurately foreseen.² Lonsdale further asserts that ‘policy gives birth to the child of war’, and stands as the most influential tendency in the nature of war; without policy, war would be just mindless violence.’³ Violence is the manifestation of human nature to contest an opposing will. Lonsdale asserts that the human factors such as emotion, concern, morality, fear shape the preparation and conduct of war.⁴ For these reasons, no two wars are ever the same. Conflicts are fought for different ends, in different ways and with different means. They share some degree of hatred and enmity between peoples or governments, and in all cases, forces clash in violent ways.

Violence

Command-and-control practices do not focus on hatred and enmity, though these tendencies influence command performance, but on the execution of violence, as this is the primary act performed by the military on behalf of the people and the government. Napoleon may have encouraged hatred and enmity in his troops towards the Prussians, British, and most everybody in Europe, but it was through the conduct of command and control that he applied violence with his forces. The violent clash of force is what distinguishes war from the other political means of intercourse. Throughout history, violence characterized the actions that caused death or injury to populations and forces, and widespread destruction to infrastructure and equipment. As Von Moltke asserted, ‘War is a rough and violent business...hardly a single family escapes the common suffering.’⁵ From the first tribal wars between primates, through to the start of operations in support of the Global War on Terror, the physical dimension has been the cauldron for violent actions; the emergence of cyberspace challenges this belief.

² David J. Lonsdale, *The Nature of War in the Information Age : Clausewitzian Future*, Cass Series-- Strategy and History (New York, NY: Frank Cass, Volume: 9, 2004), 39.

³ Lonsdale, *The Nature of War in the Information Age*, 28.

⁴ Lonsdale, *The Nature of War in the Information Age*, 36-39.

⁵ Helmuth Moltke and Daniel J. Hughes, *Moltke on the Art of War* (Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1993), 22, 26.

Cyberspace challenges the traditional perception of violence in war, but the violent nature of war continues unaltered. War, as espoused by Clausewitz, ‘is an act of force to compel the enemy to do our will.’⁶ Clausewitz viewed force as a pulsation of violence in the physical realm because, aside from the moral force, which he considered had no existence in war except through government and law; there was no other type.⁷ To Clausewitz, the notion of violence by any other means than physical was as foreign a concept as was the idea that space was a domain available for exploitation in war. There was no technological or conceptual framework to consider violence in any other way except in a duel of armies or navies. From Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte through to General Norman Schwarzkopf, warfighting was about defeating the enemy on the battlefield through physical conflict or attacks on the adversary’s population and infrastructure. During the Battle of the Somme, Field Marshal Douglas Haig threw wave after wave of his forces across the trenches at German machine guns in an effort to achieve victory on the battlefield. To secure an entry point into Europe, General Dwight Eisenhower had little option than a physical invasion through French beaches. General Schwarzkopf’s plan for victory in Operation Desert Storm was to destroy Iraq as a military power, and that required the physical destruction of the Iraqi Republican Guard.⁸ Up to the development of cyber operations, physical force was the paradigm under which war was conducted. However, just as the concept of the battlefield changed with the advent of the aircraft, the interpretation of violence should change with the emergence of cyberspace. Violence is characterized by a marked or intense change in the character of the targeted entity.⁹ An action’s effect, whether caused by physical contact or by informational influence, is the most important factor in determining violence.

Cyber Violence. A cyber attack can have an intense effect on an adversary’s warfighting capabilities—just as severe as a kinetic weapon—which should be construed as violence. During war, trains are frequently destroyed through the bombing of marshalling yards or rail bridges. A cyber attack on a rail-switching unit can send trains

⁶ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 75.

⁷ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 75, 87.

⁸ Richard T. Reynolds, *Heart of the Storm : The Genesis of the Air Campaign against Iraq* (Maxwell Air Force Base, AL: Air University Press, 1995), 107.

⁹ Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. ed. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003), 1396.

on collision courses with violent effects similar to physical attack. A successful cyber attack experiment on a power generation system by the Department of Homeland Security demonstrated the ability of cyber operations to cause the violent destruction of a generator unit.¹⁰ The cyber attack caused the generator to vibrate out of balance and cause a catastrophic failure of the generator turbine. Experience during the Los Angeles riots in 1992 and the civil unrest following Hurricane Katrina demonstrated how rational people turn violent given a threat to their lifestyle. A large-scale cyber attack on the US financial system could have such a broad effect on the life style of the average American that the attack would have to be considered violent.

Cyber attacks can have violent effects. Thus with the advent of cyberspace, the Clausewitzian concept of the violent nature of war remains unchanged, but the violent character of war has evolved. War remains violent, whether conducted in the physical or ethereal realms, but the speed, reach, effects, and ambiguity of an attacker's identity in cyber operations has altered the conduct of war.

Cyber War

Just as aviation transformed the character of war, cyberspace is altering its face again. Billy Mitchell, in his monograph on airpower advocacy, *Winged Defense*, heralded the passing of the continental era, where power was consolidated on the ground, to an aeronautical era where the air domain would determine the destiny of the human race.¹¹ A bold prediction, but in the 100 years preceding the publication of his book, although land battles had increased in destruction, they were slow in gaining strategic outcomes.¹² Mitchell foresaw the exploitation of the air domain as the next evolutionary step in the process of warfare. As the range of an arrow reduced the two-dimensional effectiveness of an army equipped with only clubs and swords, the speed, range, and payload of aircraft

¹⁰ Jeanne. Meserve, "Mouse Click Could Plunge City into Darkness," CNN online. , <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/US/09/27/power.at.risk/index.html>, accessed 6 Feb 11. YouTube video of the generator can be accessed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJyWngDco3g>.

¹¹ William Mitchell, *Winged Defense : The Development and Possibilities of Modern Air Power--Economic and Military* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2009), 3.

¹² Mitchell's observation of the slow moving and brutal nature of World War I land battles, from aircraft with speed and range never previous available to combat forces, was a driving force behind his conviction that airpower was the future of warfare.

changed conflict on land and sea.¹³ The air domain enabled a third dimension for the exercise of force, just as space provided a fourth dimension to exploit. Cyberspace, as a domain in its own right, adds a fifth dimension to project violence upon an adversary. Cyber weapons exist in the form of software and influence the adversary's networks to varying degrees. Full details of the cyber attack on an Iranian nuclear facility using the Stuxnet worm in 2010 are not likely to be publicly released, but media reporting indicated that Iran lost control of critical systems and had little appreciable awareness that they were under attack.¹⁴ It is not difficult to conjecture that other civil nuclear control components, such as cooling-rod valves or pumps, could be vulnerable to attacks using software, with ramifications comparable to the Russian Chernobyl disaster of 1986. The impacts of cyber attacks may resemble those from other domains, just as the effects of an artillery shell and a bomb from an aircraft can appear the same even though the delivery method differ substantially. Commanders who fail to appreciate the different face of war cyberspace puts forward will lose the operational advantages cyber operations offer and struggle to respond to the implications of a cyber attack.

The Uncertainty Principle

One of the key implications of cyberspace on command-and-control practices is the ambiguity that is inherent in cyber operations. Attackers can deliver malicious software across networks at the speed of light, with the time between initiation and execution of an operation limited only by the program's design, network security, server infrastructure, and routing access. Like mines or cluster munitions, software bombs can be designed to take immediate effect or lay dormant waiting for a predetermined time or event. Unlike physical weapons, however, cyber operations are conducted in relative ambiguity because of the distributed nature of networks, making the identity and intent of the attacker difficult to determine. The 2007 cyber attack on Estonia, which crippled many of the Baltic nation's government, financial, media, and corporate websites, was linked to Russia due to the geopolitical environment, but the ambiguity of attribution

¹³ Mitchell, *Winged Defense*, 15.

¹⁴ The Economist, *The Stuxnet Worm; Yet to Turn*, <http://www.economist.com/node/17730556> (The Economist website, 6 Dec 10), accessed 6 Feb 11.

made it impossible to officially blame any nation or organization.¹⁵ Software botnets, routed through multiple computer systems whose owners are unaware they are proxies to an attack, can measure in the tens of thousands and make tracing the source of an attack difficult. If the source of an attack cannot be attributed, who does a country target if it seeks retribution or looks to defend itself? Sun Tzu said that to achieve victory you must ‘know your enemy’, so if you cannot identify the enemy, upon whom do you focus your operation?¹⁶ Gaining an awareness of enemy capabilities is fundamental to the practice of command and control. Commanders at all joint and component levels need to know who the enemy is so they can focus planning and targeting efforts to best and most directly contribute to achieving objectives.¹⁷ Without an identity the integrity of the Joint Operation Planning Process (JOPP), a core element of US command-and-control practices, is placed at risk. Pivotal to the JOPP is the requirement to understand the objectives, intentions, capabilities, and limitations of all actors within the operational environment.¹⁸ The ambiguities of identity and effects that exist in cyberspace juxtapose with the speed and span of cyber operations to engender a high degree of uncertainty. Command-and-control practices need to adapt from the relative sureness of the physical domain to the uncertainty of the cyber domain if they are to remain effective in the new multi-dimensional battlefield that includes cyberspace.

Terminology. Terms such as, information dominance, real-time intelligence, or persistent surveillance incorrectly suggest that cyberspace has the potential to lift the fog of uncertainty that has constrained the practice of war throughout history. Unfortunately, uncertainty will continue to exist to some degree because even with the capabilities that cyberspace supports, inherent limitations to process information and network infrastructure inhibit achieving a perfect battlefield picture. Infrastructure will improve as technical innovation occurs, but information, which lies at the heart of cyber operations,

¹⁵ William A. Owens, Kenneth W. Dam, and Herbert Lin, *Technology, Policy, Law, and Ethics Regarding U.S. Acquisition and Use of Cyberattack Capabilities*, ed. Kenneth W. Dam William A. Owens, and Herbert S. Lin (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2009), 173.

¹⁶ Sun Tzu and Samuel B. Griffith, *The Illustrated Art of War* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005), 125.

¹⁷ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., "Joint Publication 1: Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States," (Washington, DC: Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2007), IV-8.

¹⁸ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., "Joint Publication 3-60: Joint Doctrine for Targeting," (Washington, DC: Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2007), II-1.

continues to permeate the fog of war. Information has been the difference between success and failure on battlefields for many a general officer. Commanders with the most accurate information on the enemy's force composition and position, as well as their own, are usually in the best position to exploit offensive opportunities and reduce defensive vulnerabilities. Information is, however, a double-edged sword. The vast amount of information flowing into a headquarters can overwhelm the ability to provide context and apply analysis to it; i.e. inhibit the conversion of raw information into intelligence. Clausewitz gave little credence to intelligence because information could reach the command only through numerous interpretive filters due to the limited communications infrastructure of the time, increasing uncertainty.¹⁹ Unfettered information is open to interpretation by the commander and staff, which at best can be a distraction from the functions of command (i.e., Predator crack) and at worst lead to poor decision-making. Uncertainty breeds in an environment with too much, too little, or unfiltered information.²⁰ Cyberspace is not the panacea that can lift the veil of uncertainty from a commander's eyes. However, properly managed, cyberspace can support building a better, though not perfect, situational awareness of the battlefield, which great commanders can then exploit.

Coup d'oeil. Cyberspace is a tool for a commander to cultivate Clausewitz's notion of the coup d'oeil, the *inward eye*, that enables the development of a picture of the battlefield, to conceptualize the strengths and vulnerabilities of the forces on both sides, and to make decisions better than those of the adversary.²¹ Genius consists of a harmonious combination of elements such as courage, intellect, coup d'oeil, determination, presence of mind, and boldness, in which one or the other may predominate, but none may be in conflict with the rest.

The ability to visualize the *big picture*, the strategic and operational view of a battle, appreciate opportunities, and have the intuition to exploit them in a timely manner, is enhanced by the networking effects of cyberspace. Real-time communications between commanders and their forces permits orders to be passed and intent to be transmitted, regardless of the geographic location of any of the actors. The Joint Operations

¹⁹ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 117-18.

²⁰ John Luddy, *The Challenge and Promise of Network-Centric Warfare* (Arlington, VA: Lexington Institute, 2005), 6.

²¹ Clausewitz et al., *On War*, 102. Coup d'oeil refers to the quick recognition of a truth that the mind would ordinarily miss or would perceive only after long study and reflection.

Commander, located in Bungendore, can receive live briefings from the Joint Forces Commander in Afghanistan, with the same fidelity as the Air Operations Center can receive directions from the Wedgetail mission commander. Cyberspace enables information to be compiled, disseminated, and received almost instantaneously, enabling the commander to develop the *big picture* of the strategic, operational, or even tactical environment.

However, Network Centric Warfare is a tool, not skill. It cannot make decisions, or reach inside the adversary's mind and broadcast intent. It will not make mediocre commanders great, but if properly exploited, can make good commanders better, and their forces more effective. Commanders' experience and talent, supported by cyberspace, are determinants for success or failure in the practice of command and control.

Command and Control at the Speed of Light.

Cyber operations shorten the timeline between approval and effect, requiring command-and-control practices to become more flexible. Decision-making timelines for strategic maritime operations are measured in weeks, land in days, air in hours, and space in minutes, but for cyberspace operations, the timeline to make a decision could be measured in seconds.²² Like a physical weapon, the development of software destined for use in a cyber attack can take weeks or even months to produce. Unlike its kinetic cousin, software is designed with a specific target in mind rather than a general type of target. This could be equated to a precision weapon designed to take out not a type of target like an aircraft bunker, but a specific bunker such as revetment 1A at an adversary's airbase. A different weapon would be designed to attack revetment 1B. For a kinetic weapon delivered by an aircraft, the period from the execute decision to weapon-on-target is measured in hours, and limited by only platform type, transit distance, and adversary defenses. With a cyber weapon, the period from decision to weapon delivery is measured in seconds. Both kinetic and cyber weapons may take time to negotiate an adversary's

²² For the maritime component, the response time to position a ship can be measured in weeks due to the speed of the ship and/or the transit distance. For land, maneuver or infantry elements can require days to implement an operation due to logistic requirements and unit relocation. Air has to transit to the target, thus the response time will vary depending on the proximity to the target. The hypersonic speed of ICBMs can result in only minutes available to respond to an enemy missile attack. Information over networks travel at the speed of light, thus cyber operations are only limited by the time for the program to initiate.

defenses, but for air that can be measured in minutes, whereas for cyber the period can be seconds.

The implication for command-and-control practices, whether offense or defense, is a significant reduction in decision-making timelines. An adversary can close a vulnerability almost instantly, rendering a cyber capability impotent. Thus, the authority to conduct an operation may be required in a very short time. Equally, the opportunity to defend against a cyber attack may be only fleeting, as the adversary's software may attempt to bypass a firewall or corrupt some security protocols. Using kinetic decision-making practices in a cyber operation can lead to lost opportunities. Command-and-control practices must have decision processes that are compatible with the characteristics of cyber operations. Decision speed can be the difference between success and failure in a domain where cyber effects travel at the speed of light. The practices of command and control in cyber operations will differ for those in a kinetic operation. Understanding the character of command and control across the differing domains will be the difference between success and failure in any spectrum of war.

The Conundrum of Command and Control

What is command and control? Are they separate functions? Can you have command without control? Where does the tenet of centralized control and decentralized execution fit in? Before appreciating the implications of cyberspace on these terms or phases it is timely to define what they are and what they are not.

Command sits at the top of the hierarchical tree. According to the bible of joint terminology, Joint Publication 1-02, command is the authority that a commander in the armed forces lawfully exercises over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment.²³ It is power, vested by a duly ordained superior onto a person holding a particular position, to use designated resources and for planning the employment of, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling military forces for the accomplishment of assigned

²³ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 1-02: Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms* (Washington, DC: The Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Govt. Print. Office, 2010), 65.

missions.²⁴ The essence and responsibility of command is laid out clearly in joint and service publications, and generally not open to interpretation.

Command and control is therefore the exercising of the designated authority over assigned resources and forces to achieve a directed mission.²⁵ Martin Van Creveld simply states that command 'is a function that has to be exercised continually if the military is to exist.'²⁶ He further asserts that the core functions of command, to feed and equip forces and conduct operations, are not subject to change.²⁷ However, as the environment and means vary, so will the way these functions are conducted. Command-and-control must therefore adapt to significant changes such as the emergence of cyberspace.

Control. Control is all about the power to plan, organize, direct, and coordinate forces in order to execute a mission. Control exists at all levels of the spectrum of war, and it is at the discretion of the commander as to the degree of control imposed on subordinate commanders. How much control depends on factors such as the type of conflict, nature of the task, availability of resources, importance of the mission to the overall objective, strategic or operational consequences of tactical actions, or the level of risk the commander is prepared or authorized to accept. Understandably, the control of a nuclear mission is retained at a much higher level than a close-air support (CAS) task. However, the degree of control of a CAS task will differ during an unlimited war than during a limited war due to the political sensitivity or strategic/operational consequences. The degree of control also changes across and within operational domains as the environment and mission change. Control in the air has different challenges than encountered on the sea; the control of a ground unit will be vastly different from the control of a cyber operation. Each domain is unique, and attempts to translate control across the differing environments have been a source of friction, ambiguity, and confusion among the services for generations. Control needs to be tailored to the operational domain, strategic consequences, available technology, and type of mission rather than a *cookie-cutter* approach.²⁸ So, if control is about the planning, organizing, and direction of

²⁴ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 1-02*, 65.

²⁵ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 1-02*, 65.

²⁶ Martin Van Creveld, *Command in War* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1985), 5.

²⁷ Van Creveld, *Command in War*, 9.

²⁸ Michael W. Kometer, *Command in Air War : Centralized Versus Decentralized Control of Combat Airpower* (Maxwell Air Force Base, AL: Air University Press, 2007), 61.

a mission, how much influence should the higher commander have on those subordinated to execute the task?

5000-mile screwdriver. With seemingly complete access to the battlefield picture via cyberspace, commanders can reach into the operational or tactical areas of operation and provide direction to subordinates executing the mission. With the advent of cyberspace came the 5000-mile “command screwdriver”.

In some way, the practice of command and control has gone full circle since the Athenian era when generals directed the tactical execution of their units. As armies grew beyond the ability of a general to direct execution, leaders like Napoleon subordinated field commanders to execute strategic and operational intent. As the scale of war grew, field generals further subordinated control and the direction of execution to lower and lower echelon commanders. The size of the battlefield pushed operational planning to a headquarters well remote from the point of execution. By World War I the era of generals like Robert E Lee directing the execution of a battle from a hillside had long passed. Units executed tasks based on mission orders and intent with little direct influence by a higher command. As communication technology advanced, higher echelon commanders were able to provide more guidance to those executing the mission. During World War I, field telephones allowed a remote headquarters to provide direction to units just before they commenced an attack. The use of portable radios during World War II allowed commanders in the immediate area of a battlefield to direct forces during the execution of a battle. The opening up of the space domain and advancements in cyber technology once again permitted the modern commander to direct a battle in the same manner as Alexander or Lee, but from a virtual hillside 5000 miles away. Networked communications allow commanders to tune the execution of a mission in real time, as if they were holding a 5000-mile screwdriver.

Unfortunately, the warriors executing the missions are feeling that screwdriver more and more in their back. One problem with this approach is a gap between what the commanders think they know and what is actually occurring in the battle. Local commanders have the benefit of a real-time appreciation of the battlespace and may have insight into local situations that electronic sensors cannot detect. Commanders who reach down into the operational or tactical environment can inhibit local commanders’ ability to

use initiative in the execution of their tasks.²⁹ The effect of cyberspace is to enable the direction of execution to move further away from the battle and more into the realm of control.³⁰ Cyberspace has reenergized the debate on the centralization of control and execution.

Centralization. Centralization is not a binary phenomenon. The tenet of centralized control and decentralized execution is often lambasted as being inflexible because centralization is viewed as either fully one way or the other—an on/off switch rather than a rheostat.³¹ Centralized control is at one end of the operational spectrum and execution at the other. In reality centralization is a continuum where the degree of centralization is determined by the type of conflict, the task, resource availability, importance of the mission to the overall objective, strategic or operational consequences, or acceptable risk. The elements of control, such as planning, coordination, or direction, are conducted at varying levels of centralization. Centralization of control in domain changes as do the tasks within the domains.³² The degree of control over a guided missile frigate will differ from that of a patrol boat. Because of airpower's responsiveness and range, centralized control offers the potential to maximize the flexibility and effectiveness of airpower through concentration of effort to integrate and synchronize effects.³³ The centralized direction of task execution will also vary as the controls vary. Labeling execution as decentralized does not automatically place the direction at the extreme low end of the continuum, but in a band.

²⁹ Clint Hinote, *Centralized Control and Decentralized Execution : A Catchphrase in Crisis?*, Research Paper ; 2009-1 (Maxwell Air Force Base, AL: Air University Press, 2009), 20.

³⁰ Kometer, *Command in Air War* 101, 16.

³¹ Kometer, *Command in Air War* 34.

³² Kometer, *Command in Air War* 37.

³³ Kometer, *Command in Air War* 33.

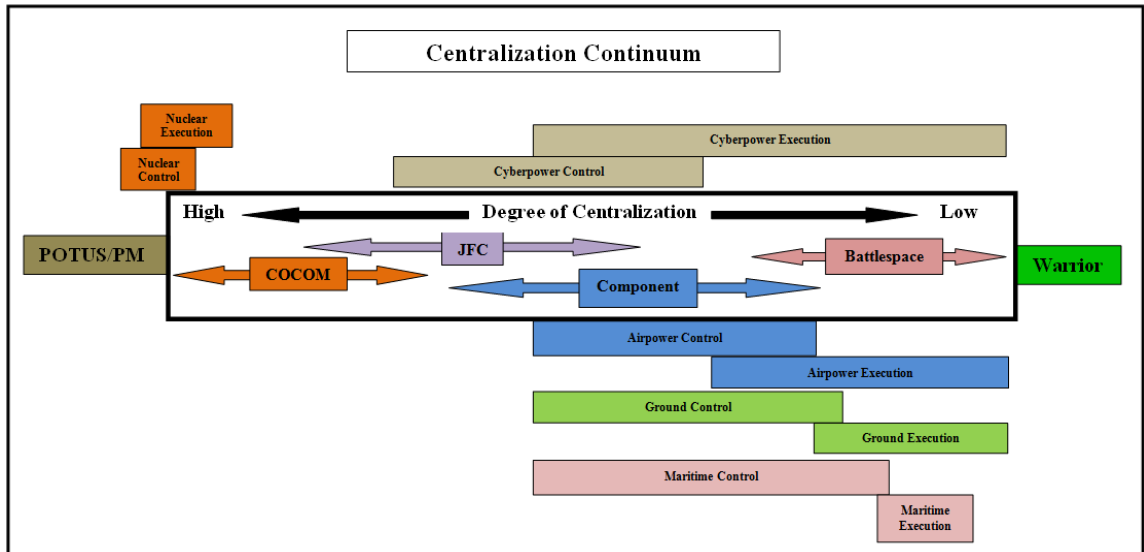


Figure 1: Continuum of Centralization

Source: Author's Original Work

As indicated in Fig 1, the direction of the execution of a cyberspace operation could vary from the unit level through to the Joint Force Commander, dependent upon the nature of the operation. There can always be a crossover between the degree of control and the level of centralized direction during execution. The command-and-control system, including those executing the task, needs to be adaptive to shifts in centralization as the strategic and operational environment changes.

Command-and-control rheostat. The command-and-control organization should be structured as an open system so it can respond to shifting levels of centralized control across different domains, changing operational environments, and adaptive, networked technology. Antoine Bousquet argues that the chaos of the modern battlefield requires the military to restructure towards a more complex, adaptive system that operates at the edge of chaos.³⁴ The more networked an organization is, the flatter the hierarchy need be. This allows greater redundancy and creates self-organizing units better equipped to react to the complexities in war. Uncertainty and disorder are central to the character of war, and an organization willing to view conflict through a chaoplexic lens is better placed to respond to the unpredictability of an adversary.³⁵ The ability to scale the level of centralization,

³⁴ Antoine J. Bousquet, *The Scientific Way of Warfare: Order and Chaos on the Battlefields of Modernity* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2009), 202.

³⁵ Bousquet, *The Scientific Way of Warfare*, 200.

combined with the battlespace awareness provided by Network Centric Warfare, synthesizes the advantages of cyberspace with the realities of war.³⁶ Through network centric warfare, commanders gain a broader and more persistent picture of the battlespace and make more timely decisions to support changes in the operational environment. Future networked operations would enable infantry patrols to engage with land, sea, or air elements to respond to changing operational requirements without coordinating through intermediate headquarters. All commanders will be synchronized into the higher echelon's requirements and the broader operational picture, minimizing centralized control, and enabling execution that is more responsive. Command-and-control practices need to be flexible and facilitate a "rheostat" approach to the centralization of control to gain the full benefits available from Network Centric Warfare.

Service perspectives. A large impediment to achieving more responsive command and control in the cyber age is the differing concepts of war held by each service. Carl Builder argues that each service views the other services through different lenses, and worships at different altars.³⁷ To the Navy, independent command at sea is sacrosanct because it affords the commanding officer of a ship total responsibility for the actions of the crew and complete autonomy of action. The pervasiveness of cyberspace, while reducing uncertainty in the battlespace picture, enables higher commanders to tread where only ships' captains were allowed to, reducing the traditional freedom of action enjoyed on the high sea. The Army measures its effectiveness by its ability to put boots on the ground, and allows these boots to conduct operations within broad mission orders. Execution has a very low degree of centralization, with units expected to use initiative to achieve desired objectives. To foster this initiative, control is exercised at the bottom portion of the centralization continuum.³⁸ Cyberspace can be both a friend and foe to the Army's traditional concept of operations by enabling greater autonomy amongst networked units, or conversely allowing the hand of a commander to reach into the battlefield to redirect tactical operations. Builder espouses that the Air Force is all about technology and its toys, so it should be no surprise that cyberspace is embraced as a tool to

³⁶ Bousquet, *The Scientific Way of Warfare*, 233.

³⁷ Carl H. Builder, *The Masks of War : American Military Styles in Strategy and Analysis*, A Rand Corporation Research Study (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 17-22.

³⁸ Hinote, *A Catchphrase in Crisis?*, 18.

maximize the efficiency of a finite allocation of its toys.³⁹ Adaptive centralization of control is an entrenched Air Force tenet. Cyberspace provides the opportunity for greater flexibility and reduced centralization of control if required, as is needed during irregular warfare. However, centralization of execution can also increase if the consequences of a mission warrant, as in the case of a high-value target.

Summary

While the character of war shifts with the tide of technology, the nature of war remains resolute. The emergence of cyberspace has come closest to challenging the notion of an immutable nature by expanding the concept of violence beyond the physical sphere. Violence as an effect, rather than as an action, brings into question some of Clausewitz ageless principles of war, but rest assured his canons are safe, just interpreted for the current era. Equally, cyber does not alter Clausewitz foundational axiom that war is the realm of uncertainty, there is just the ability make the fog a little less opaque.⁴⁰ While cyber can breed less uncertainty, its ability to enhance situational awareness across most reaches of the battlespace intensifies the debate on the centralization of control and execution. Cyber allows the commander to reach out of the operational arena into the tactical lines (or cockpit) and manipulate control of what traditionally was the purview of the front-line warrior. Of course, there are pluses and minuses in every debate, and operational commanders bear responsibility for the outcome of any tactical activity, but the degree of control should depend on the operational and strategic environment, not just the capacity to act. Cyberspace facilitates the adjustment of control across the continuum of centralization; the challenge for commanders is when and by how much to adjust the rheostat.

³⁹ Builder, *The Masks of War*, 23.

⁴⁰ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 101.

Chapter 2

CYBER 101

Every age has its own kind of war, its own limiting conditions, and its own peculiar preconceptions.

Carl Von Clausewitz

Warfare is the highest echelon of human conflict and involves the act of force (*means*) to compel an enemy to do our will (*objective*).⁴¹ An increasing trend in academia, the media, and doctrine is to label all functions the military performs as warfare, and cyber has not been immune. The ubiquity of cyberspace requires the Department of Defence to conduct cyber operations, in concert with governmental organizations and the private sector, during periods of both peace and war to support national strategic interests. Prior to open conflict, the military will shape the operational environment through operations that place the nation in a more advantageous position in comparison to potential adversaries. Many of these operations will be defensive in character, such as the employment of integrated air defense systems, maritime patrols, and in the case of cyber, robust network security systems. To be sure, in the event of conflict, the military will conduct warfare to meet its responsibilities of executing activities in support of national objectives.

Cyberspace is not solely the province of the military, with governmental organizations and the private sector heavily invested in its continued freedom for use. Warfare is the responsibility of the military, but all invested parties carry out cyber operations to some degree. Many of the strategic interests of these parties are captured in Amit Sharma's Clausewitzian interpretation of strategic cyber warfare, depicted in Figure 2. Warfare is the responsibility of the military, but as all parties undertake cyber operations in some form, this paper will use the phrase "cyber operations" to describe most activities in cyberspace. Specifically cyber operations include; cyber security, also referred to as cyber defense; cyber attack; and cyber support activities. This

⁴¹ Edward Waltz, *Information Warfare : Principles and Operations* (Boston, MA: Artech House, 1998), 75.

chapter will focus on the military aspects of cyber operations, all of which fall under the banner of information operations, specifically computer network operations.

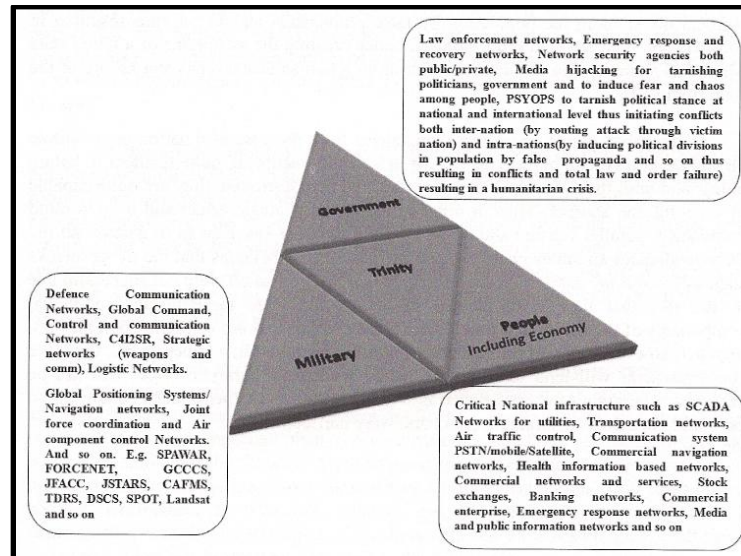


Figure 2: The Notion of Trinity in Terms of Strategic Cyber Operations

Source: Amit Sharma, "Cyber Wars: A Paradigm Shift from Means to Ends," in *Cyberpower and National Security*, ed. Franklin D. Kramer, Stuart H. Starr, and Larry K. Wentz (Washington, DC: Potomac Books, 2009), Figure 1, 7

Terminology. The complexity of the cyber domain, its synergetic linkages across the other operational domains, and the scale and scope of cyber effects requires an appreciation of the terms associated with cyber operations. The interpretation of terms can determine the structure of organizations, the types of capabilities acquired, the type of response to a situation, or who holds the responsibility for various functions. Wholesale labeling of the conduct of military activities in the cyber domain as cyber warfare is too simplistic and understates the breadth of cyber operations. This chapter establishes a clear picture of the hierarchal flow of cyber-related terms and provides insight into the scope of activities involved in the conduct of cyber operations. If the RAAF and the broader ADF organization are to exploit cyberspace to its maximum potential, the adoption of standardized terminology and definitions must occur from the governmental executive down to the front-line warrior.

Environments

At the top of the definitional tree are the environments in which all actions occur. The environments are divided according to the aggregate of surrounding conditions.

These conditions are characterized by vacuum, gas, liquid, solid, and, with an awareness of cyberspace, ether.⁴² All actions, military or otherwise, occur within or across the bounds of these environments. The first four physical environments have been evident for millennia; however, the fifth environment, which I refer to as ether, emerged with the development of computers, network structures, and the technology to transmit data between nodes. The physical environments can be clearly delineated by the presence of water, earth, air, or in the case of vacuum the lack of physical elements. Ether is more difficult to visualize as it permeates all the other environments. Ether encompasses the collective digital memory systems, internets and intranets, software, hardware, and the electromagnetic spectrum and transmission lines of civilian, commercial, military, and governmental organizations through which data traverses nearly instantaneously. While the concept of information will be dealt with separately, it is important to note that data is not information; rather a set of binary characters that, on their own, represent no coherent meaning.⁴³ Information is data that has been processed and interpreted in relation to a specific context. In 2010, US joint doctrine added a fifth environment to acknowledge the influence of cyberspace on the conduct of warfighting activities, it labeled this new environment, informational.

Joint Publication 3-0, *Joint Operations*, characterizes environment in the operational context as “the composite of the conditions, circumstances, and influences that affect the employment of capabilities and bear on the decisions of the commander.”⁴⁴ Joint doctrine differentiates the physical areas—vacuum, gas, liquid, and solid—from the ethereal environment, which it refers to as informational. Joint Publication 3-0 offers the information environment as “a global environment composed of all individuals, organizations, and systems that collect, process, disseminate, or act on information.”⁴⁵ While arguably information is an operational dimension (addressed later in this chapter) rather than an environment, the acknowledgement of an environment existing outside the

⁴² Sebastian M. Convertino, Lou Anne DeMattei, and Tammy M. Knierim, *Flying and Fighting in Cyberspace*, Maxwell Paper ; No. 40 (Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.: Air University Press, 2007), Adapted from Table 3, 10.

⁴³ David Alberts et al., *Understanding Information Age Warfare* (Washington, DC: CCRP Publication Series, 2001), 16.

⁴⁴ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., "Joint Publication 3-0: Joint Operations," (Washington, DC: Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2006, Incorporating Change 2, 22 March 2010), xvi.

⁴⁵ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., "Jp 3-0 Joint Operations," II-22.

physical realms formalized the long-held realization of many that cyberspace was a warfighting domain.⁴⁶

Domains

There is no US doctrinal or internationally agreed on definition for what delineates a domain. Patrick Allen and Dennis Gilbert posit that a domain is a “sphere of interest and influence in which activities, functions, and operations are undertaken to accomplish missions and exercise control over an opponent in order to achieve desired effects.”⁴⁷ Domains require capabilities to have unique qualities to operate within them. They cannot fully encompass any other domain, and some degree of control must be possible within each sphere. Further, friendly and opposing capabilities must be capable of having a shared presence, but the opportunity will exist to gain synergy from other domains, and conduct asymmetric actions across domains.⁴⁸ *Joint Publication 3-0* espouses four physical warfighting domains—air, land, maritime, and space—and one informational domain—cyberspace.⁴⁹

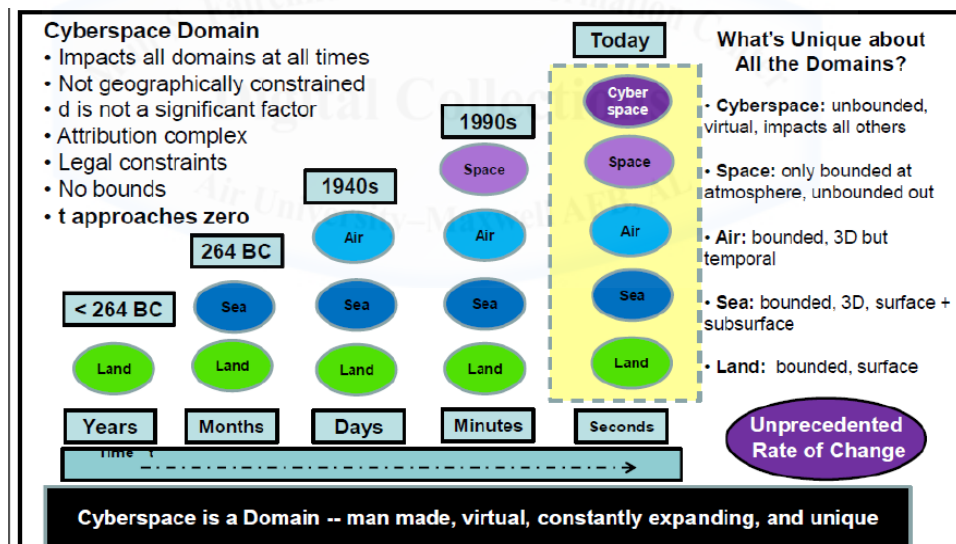


Figure 3: The Accelerating Calculus of War

Source: Larry Burger, *Cyberspace* (Huntsville, AL: US Army Strategic Command, Future Warfare Center, 2011), Slide 6.

⁴⁶ Martin Libicki, *Conquest in Cyberspace : National Security and Information Warfare* (New York, NY: Rand, Corporation, Cambridge University Press, 2007), 2.

⁴⁷ Patrick Allen and Dennis Gilbert, *The Virtual Battlefield : Perspectives on Cyber Warfare*, ed. Christian Czosseck and Kenneth Geers, Cryptology and Information Security Series, V. 3 (Amsterdam ; Fairfax, VA: IOS Press, 2009), 133.

⁴⁸ Allen and Gilbert, *The Virtual Battlefield*, 134.

⁴⁹ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., "Jp 3-0 Joint Operations," xvi.

Figure 3 depicts the evolution of warfighting domains, with cyberspace firmly ensconced as a separate and unique domain. Each of these domains relate directly to the physical or ethereal environments.

The 2006 Capstone Concept for Joint Operations broadened the idea of domains when it referred to them as “any potential operating space” through which the target system can be influenced--not only the domains of land, sea, air, and space, but also the virtual (information and cyber) and human (cognitive, moral, and social) domains.”⁵⁰ The Capstone Concept for Joint Operations documents provides the guiding principles for the development of joint doctrine. The 2005 Capstone Concept document planted the seed for the realization of cyberspace as a separate domain. The 2009 Capstone Concept for Joint Operations firmly ensconced cyberspace as separate from the four physical domains, and linked future military success with the ability to successfully operate in cyberspace and integrate cyber capabilities with those capabilities resident in other domains.⁵¹ The physical domains provide the warfighter dimensions in which to conduct operations; cyberspace provides an extra dimension to engage in conflict. Lt. Gen. Robert J. Elder, as Commander of Eighth Air Force, echoes this notion in his statement “cyberspace exists alongside the other warfighting domains and should be protected and exploited in a similar fashion.”⁵² However, labeling cyberspace as a domain is one thing, understanding what it is and what it encompasses is entirely another thing.

Cyberspace

There are almost as many definitions for cyberspace as there are academic books on the subject. This is not unexpected because cyberspace, as a warfighting domain, only emerged in the 1990s, with explicit cyber operations tracing back to Operation Desert Storm. In reality, cyber activities predate Operations Desert Storm with intelligence

⁵⁰ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Capstone Concept for Joint Operations*, Version 2.0. ed. (Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2005), 16.

⁵¹ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Capstone Concept for Joint Operations*, Version 3.0. ed. (Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2009), 3.

⁵² Lt. Gen. Robert J. Elder in Kenyon. Henry, "Cyberspace Command Logs In," (2007), http://www.afcea.org/signal/articles/templates/Signal_Article_Template.asp?articleid=1362&zoneid=212 accessed 13 Mar 11. Accessed 17 Mar 11

agencies using computer-based technologies during WWII; indeed the Internet was founded in the 1960s and flourished during the 1980s.⁵³

However, it was not until the mid-1990s when net-centric warfare, hosted in cyberspace, began to emerge as a new form of warfare. This emergence, combined with growth in ISR, triggered many academics and military scholars to posit that warfare was undergoing a revolution in military affairs.⁵⁴ Operation Allied Force, the 1999 NATO war against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, saw cyberspace crystallize as a warfighting domain with cyber operations used to support and shape the air campaign.⁵⁵ A clear understanding of what cyberspace is, and importantly what it is not, is critical to appreciating the effects cyber operations can produce. Following is an assortment of definitions available on cyberspace:

JP 1-02. A global domain within the information environment consisting of the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, including the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers.⁵⁶

JP 3-0. Cyberspace consists of the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, including the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers. Within cyberspace, electronics and the electromagnetic spectrum are used to store, modify, and exchange data via networked systems.⁵⁷

Martin Libicki. Cyberspace is a replicable construct that is built rather than born. It can exist in multiple locations simultaneously; in cyberspace, no single *there* exists. Cyberspace has three layers; physical hardware; syntactic level where data and information are constructed and controlled; and semantic layer contains the information meaningful to the end user whether it be human or machine.⁵⁸

Dorothy Denning. Cyberspace is the information space consisting of the sum total of all computer networks. Information space is defined as the aggregate of all

⁵³ Rebecca Grant, *Rise of Cyber War* (Washington, DC: Mitchell Institute Press, 2008), 6.

⁵⁴ Lonsdale, *The Nature of War in the Information Age*, 49.

⁵⁵ Grant, *Rise of Cyber War*, 6.

⁵⁶ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 1-02*, 92.

⁵⁷ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., "Jp 3-0 Joint Operations," II-22.

⁵⁸ Libicki, *Conquest in Cyberspace*, 5-8.

information services available to an entity, such as printed documents, computers, communication systems, and all the information present in an organization's physical and cognitive environment.⁵⁹

The US National Strategy to Defend Cyberspace. Cyberspace is the nervous system of public and private institutions—the control system of our country. Cyberspace comprises hundreds of thousands of interconnected computers, servers, routers, switches, and fiber optic cables that make our critical infrastructures work.

National Military Strategy for Cyber Operations. “An operational domain whose distinctive and unique character is formed by the use of electronic and the electromagnetic spectrum to create, modify, exchange, and exploit information via connected and internettted information systems and their associated infrastructures.”⁶⁰

Definition. From these definitions, cyberspace can be characterized as a domain that exists in both the physical and cognitive dimensions, encompasses a networked system of computers, supported by a communications infrastructure, and within which information shifts between actors. Rebecca Grant asserts that early definitions of cyberspace were too focused on the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum, which led to debates about whether technologies such the telegraph were *cyber-like*.⁶¹ The EM spectrum is an important element of cyberspace. It provides the maneuver space for cyber operations, but it is not the basis of the domain. Information, and its exchange between users, provides meaning to this sphere of influence. The physical elements of cyberspace provide the essential framework in which its cognitive element, information, is created, modified, stored, and transmitted. The challenge to warfighters is to take a definition that combines the physical and cognitive realms and develop a framework within which to carry out combat operations.

⁵⁹ Dorothy Denning, *Information Warfare and Security* (New York Reading, MA: ACM Press ; Addison-Wesley, 1999), 22.

⁶⁰ Daniel Kuehl, "From Cyberspace to Cyberpower: Defing the Problem," in *Cyberpower and National Security*, ed. Franklin Kramer, Stuart Starr, and Larry Wentz (Washington, DC: Potomac Books, 2009), 48. This definition was adapted from the National Military strategy for Cyber Operations, 2006, ix.

⁶¹ Grant, *Rise of Cyber War*, 7.

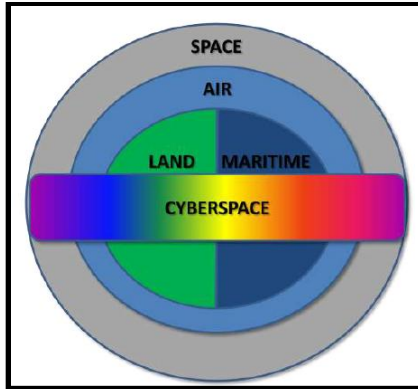


Figure 4: Warfighting Operational Domain Relationships

Source: United States. Department of the Air Force, Cyberspace Operations, Air Force Doctrine Document; 3-12 (Washington, DC: Dept. of the Air Force, 2010), 20.

The concept of cyberspace is difficult to visualize. Land, sea, air, and even space are regions that have a physical presence; however, as depicted in Figure 4, cyberspace pervades them all. Soldiers, sailors, pilots, and astronauts can interact directly with these environments. Cyberspace is a phenomenon where human connection is on the peripheral. Software is the proxy the warfighter uses within the domain to substitute for a physical presence. If cyberspace was the human body, servers, cables and supporting infrastructure would be physiological. In cyberspace, computers are analogous to the brain, networks to synapses, data to the action potentials, and information to thought.⁶² Manmade technology allows humans to enter and exploit the air, space, and maritime warfighting domains. Humans access the air domain using technology to carry payloads over distances to cause effects. Similarly, it takes technology to access the cyber domain to carry software payloads over distances to cause effects. However, though humans cannot physically enter the cyber domain, technology remains the lever to exploit warfighting advantages.⁶³ Over the last decade, the military has steadily built a better picture of cyberspace, expanding its understanding of information effects within the domain, as well as the enabling power information provides to capabilities across other domains.

⁶² The brain's cerebral cortex contains roughly one billion synapses. These neurons communicate with one another by means of long protoplasmic fibers called axons. Axons carry trains of signal pulses called **action potentials** to distant parts of the brain or body and target them to specific recipient cells.

⁶³ Kuehl, "Cyberpower and National Security," 29.

Information

Information is the core around which command, control, and execution of military operations occur. Every event in life revolves around the creation, manipulation, transmission, and application of information. At its basics, information is the consequence of putting individual observations into some significant context.⁶⁴ These observations could be from sensors, human or machine, or from the collection of data items. Data is the depiction of individual facts, concepts, or directions that are capable of transmission, processing, and interpretation by man or machine.⁶⁵ Information is blind; it does not reflect truth, merely a translation of the received data. As Edward Mann states, “Information is passive and always exists, whether someone pays attention to it or not...it can be collected, collated, analyzed, disseminated, and even managed.”⁶⁶ Data can be incorrectly created through misinterpretation of an observation or entry error, manipulated by a third-party, or corrupted during transmission. The information extracted from data is merely a representation of what is received. Knowledge is drawn from conclusions, deduced from patterns, and gleaned from information.

Knowledge. Unlike information, knowledge is active. It cannot sit in a filing cabinet or be stored on a hard drive. It must be applied to a context to be relevant and useful to the decision-maker. The location of an aircraft is information; it only becomes knowledge when the location is linked to a context and an operational environment.⁶⁷ The combination of knowledge, experience, and context provides understanding to information sufficient to predict consequences of actions and develop awareness of situations.⁶⁸ Edward Waltz espouses that this combination is termed wisdom, and, as depicted in Figure 5, it is at this level of the information hierarchy that decision-making occurs.⁶⁹ All actions from the tactical to strategic levels require decision-making. Thus, decision-making is the fundamental component in the command, control, and execution of military actions.

⁶⁴ Alberts et al., *Understanding Information Age Warfare*, 16.

⁶⁵ Alberts et al., *Understanding Information Age Warfare*, 17.

⁶⁶ Edward C. Mann, *Thunder and Lightning : Desert Storm and the Airpower Debates* (Maxwell Air Force Base, AL: Air University Press, 1995), 152.

⁶⁷ Mann, *Thunder and Lightning : Desert Storm and the Airpower Debates*, 153.

⁶⁸ Alberts et al., *Understanding Information Age Warfare*, 16-20.

⁶⁹ Waltz, *Information Warfare*, 50-51.

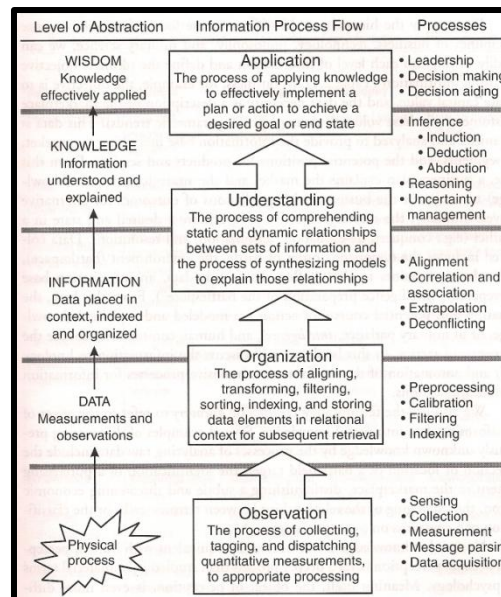


Figure 5: Information Hierarchy

Source: Waltz, *Information Warfare*, 51, Figure 2.1.

Cyberspace is not the sole repository of information, but it is becoming the most prevalent medium and thus critical to military operations. Hardcopy books, photographs, and recordings are examples of non-cyber based information, though increasingly these media are reproduced in cyberspace. The 2011 National Military Strategy acknowledged the pervasiveness of this domain when it stated, “cyberspace capabilities enable Combatant Commanders to operate effectively across all domains.”⁷⁰ Dependence breeds vulnerabilities and the US, along with most other nations, is becoming increasingly reliant on the cyberspace domain for enabling many national security requirements.⁷¹ This reliance opens the door for the cyber warrior to exploit the cyberspace domain through cyber attack, but places even greater importance on cyber defense to maintain any asymmetric advantages across all the warfighting domains.

Information Operations

Information is an essential element of military operations, but as information and cyber share a synergy rather than an identity, the role of information operations differs

⁷⁰ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *National Military Strategy of the United States of America, 2011, Redefining America's Military Leadership* (Washington, DC: Joint Chiefs of Staff: Supt. of Docs., 2011), 10.

⁷¹ President of the United States, *National Security Strategy - 2010* (Washington, DC: Executive Office of the President, 2010), 8.

from cyber operations. Cyber is one medium through which information operations, such as directed psychological operations, are conducted.⁷² As Rebecca Grant states, “Information operations and cyber operations are closely related, but they are not the same thing.”⁷³ As described in Joint Publication 3-13, *Information Operations*, information is used “to influence, disrupt, corrupt, or usurp adversarial human and automated decision making while protecting our own.”⁷⁴ Information operations, in some form, have been around for thousands of years. Sun Tzu is perhaps the earliest recorded advocate of using information as a tool of war, asserting “All warfare is based on deception” and all deception should lead to confusion.⁷⁵ Taken literally, this is fully correct; an alternate interpretation could be that all war is based on influence, with information and deception at its core.

Information Operations work! Information operations seek to influence the decision-making process of the opposing commander; because as Clausewitz and Sun Tzu assert, the commander is the decisive factor – a center of gravity.⁷⁶ In World War II, the Allies manipulated information in the lead-up to Operational Overlord, to convince the German decision-makers that the invasion of Europe was to occur in a location other than Normandy. Operation Fortitude was a major information operation, involving the controlled leakage of falsified information, to mislead German High command into thinking Norway and Calais was the invasion site. Fortitude used wireless traffic to deceive German commanders into believing General Patton’s fantasy 1st Army Group was real and a threat.⁷⁷ More recently, Operation Desert Storm invoked electronic warfare from the outset to deceive Iraqi controllers into thinking that large packages of aircraft were inbound to Bagdad when no such formations existed.⁷⁸ While the delivery platforms were electronic, the weapon was information, and the target was Iraqi decision-makers.

⁷² Rich Mesic, *Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional) Decision Support* Rand Corporation Monograph Series (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2010), 13.

⁷³ Grant, *Rise of Cyber War*, 7.

⁷⁴ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, Joint Publication; 3-13 (Washington, DC: Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2006), ix.

⁷⁵ Sun Tzu and Griffith, *The Illustrated Art of War*, 78, 96.

⁷⁶ Sun Tzu and Griffith, *The Illustrated Art of War*, 121.

⁷⁷ Max Hastings, *Overlord : D-Day and the Battle for Normandy*, 1st Vintage Books ed. (New York, NY: Vintage Books, 2006), 63-65.

⁷⁸ Williamson Murray and Robert H. Scales, *The Iraq War : A Military History* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2003), 2-3.

As technology progresses and cyberspace opens up to military activities, information operations functions increasingly occur in the cyberspace domain.

Information Environment

Common in much of the literature on information operations is a linkage to the information environment.⁷⁹ Joint Publication 3-13 states the information environment represents the “aggregate of individuals, organizations, and systems that collect, process, disseminate, or act on information.” It is within this environment that decision-making occurs in a way best immortalized by Colonel John Boyd’s observe, orient, decide, and act (OODA loop). Boyd argued that the key to success in combat was to have a more effective OODA loop than the adversary. This is achieved by having better information processes, but also by disrupting the effectiveness of the adversary’s OODA loop.⁸⁰ Information operations seek to exploit opportunities on the observe and orient elements to disrupt or corrupt the adversaries’ decision-making processes and reduce the effectiveness of their actions.

There are numerous methods to analyze the conduct of operations against information systems. Martin Libicki views information systems in terms of three physical, syntactic, and semantic layers. The physical layer consists of the various means that permit the circulation of informational bits. The means can be computers, routers, satellites, or cables, with circulation varying from radio frequency energy to electrical signals and photons. The physical layer is vulnerable to attack by direct damage to the hardware or interception of the information as it circulates across the system.⁸¹ The syntactic layer consists of the instructions that tell information systems what to do with bits that are being circulated through the physical system. In modern computers, the syntax is the operating system and associated applications, while on networks it is the internet protocols. It is in this layer where hackers operate, inserting malware to corrupt or damage the information systems processes. Syntax determines the where information

⁷⁹ The terms *information domain* and *information warfare model* represent the same concept as the term *information environment*, and share three common components: physical, information, and cognitive/perceptual.

⁸⁰ Grant Tedrick Hammond, *The Mind of War: John Boyd and American Security* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001), 189-91.

⁸¹ Libicki, *Conquest in Cyberspace*, 24.

packets and how they are processed.⁸² The semantic layer provides meaning to the information content. For this reason, it is at the semantic level where deception operations against people and logic processing systems occur.⁸³ Other authors, such as Chris Scott consider how information operations occurs within the three interrelated dimensions of physical, informational (cyber), and cognitive or domains, as indicated in Figure 6.

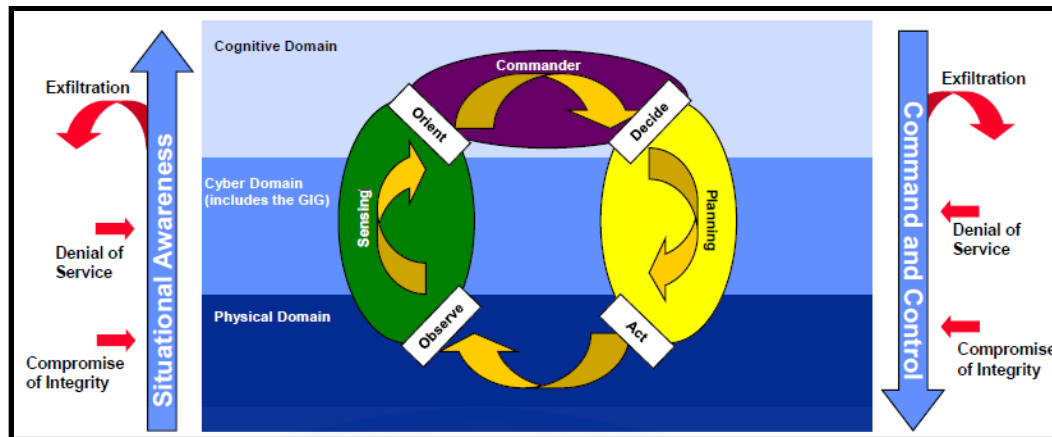


Figure 6. The Information Dimensions and their Role in Decision-Making

Source: Chris Scott, *Cyber Warfare: A Perspective on Cyber Threats and Technology in the Network-Centric Warfare Battlespace*, vol. Slide 7 of 28 (Lincoln, MA: Information and Systems Technology Group, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, 2008), Slide 7 of 28.

Dimensions

The physical dimension contains all the hardware and associated infrastructure required to conduct information operations. It includes the communication capabilities that reside in all the warfighting domains. With advancements in technology, a greater emphasis is placed on the physical capabilities that reside in cyberspace such as computers, servers, wireless, and cables that support the transmission of data.⁸⁴ The informational dimension is where information is collected, processed, stored, disseminated, displayed, and protected.⁸⁵ Examples of information include air tasking orders, propaganda leaflets, maps, publications, and television broadcasts. This dimension is about the content and flow of information rather than the medium used to produce the information. The third dimension, cognitive, is where information is translated into

⁸² Libicki, *Conquest in Cyberspace*, 24-25.

⁸³ Libicki, *Conquest in Cyberspace*, 25.

⁸⁴ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, I-1.

⁸⁵ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, I-2.

knowledge for use in the decision-making process, as depicted in Figure 6. As Clausewitz argues, it is the mind of the commander where genius occurs and therefore the key to success in war lies within this dimension.⁸⁶ Joint Publication 3-13 emphasizes “this dimension in which people think, perceive, visualize, and decide.”⁸⁷

Information conveyed from the physical and information dimensions, such as commander’s intent, training instructions, or propaganda, is translated into meaning by associated factors such as; “leadership, morale, unit cohesion, emotion, state of mind, level of training, experience, situational awareness, as well as public opinion, perceptions, media, public information, and rumors.”⁸⁸ The functions of information operations take place within these dimensions and across all the warfighting domains, though more functions are utilizing cyberspace as technology provides greater opportunities.

Information operations encompass a broad scope of functions, and numerous books are available on the subject. However to appreciate the differences between information and cyber operations Timothy Thomas in his book, *Cyber Silhouettes*, offers a definition that captures many of the information concepts across much of the literature. He posits, “*An IO is a number of technical, influence, and effects-causing operations (plus their counter-capabilities) used from peacetime to post-conflict scenarios to achieve a stated goal via means of destruction, persuasion, protection, control, or neutralization. These activities are aimed at the decision-making of leaders, combatants, and the general populace, and include all means to gather and distribute information.*”⁸⁹

Complexity. Though this definition may seem overly proscriptive, it does portray the complexity of information operations. A common problem in describing information operations is that the functions are so broad that information, as Leigh Armistead posits, “is at once everything, and it is nothing.”⁹⁰ In many ways, the evolution of information operations was a catch-all for capabilities that didn’t seem to fit anywhere else. As information was primarily a responsibility of the intelligence community, a number of associated intelligence capabilities were clustered under the information operations

⁸⁶ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 100.

⁸⁷ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, I-2.

⁸⁸ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, I-2.

⁸⁹ Timothy L. Thomas, *Cyber Silhouettes : Shadows over Information Operations* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO), 2005), 25.

⁹⁰ Leigh Armistead, *Information Operations : Warfare and the Hard Reality of Soft Power*, 1st ed., Brassey's Issues in Twenty-First Century Warfare (Washington, DC: Brassey's, 2004), 19.

umbrella. Joint Publication 3-13, *Information Operations*, assists in reducing some of this complexity by breaking the functions into core, supporting, and related capabilities. Core capabilities are those required for the planning and execution of operations in the information environment. Supporting capabilities have military purposes other than IO but either operate in the information environment or have impact on the information environment. The third group of related capabilities interfaces with core and supporting capabilities, but have separate and distinct purposes.⁹¹ The capabilities within each group are:

Core capabilities: Electronic warfare, operational security, psychological operations, military deception, and computer network operations.

Supporting information operation capabilities: Information assurance, physical security, physical attack, counter-intelligence, and combat camera

Related information operation capabilities: public affairs, civil-military operations, and defense support to public diplomacy.

Core Capabilities⁹²

Electronic warfare (EW) means many things to many people; however, doctrinally, EW encompasses any military use of the electromagnetic spectrum to influence an enemy either directly or indirectly and consists of Electronic Attack, Electronic Protection, and EW Support. Cyberspace and EW can share similar portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, but their relationship is symbiotic, with capabilities within cyberspace supporting the conduct of EW.

1. **Electronic Attack** utilizes the electro-magnetic spectrum to actively or passively degrade or destroy an adversary's military capability.
2. **Electronic Protection** seeks to minimize the effects of electronic warfare on friendly capability, from either electronic fratricide or an adversary's electronic attack.

⁹¹ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, I-6.

⁹² United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, II-1 to II-5.

3. **Electronic Warfare Support** builds situational awareness of an adversary's use of the electromagnetic spectrum for threat avoidance, targeting, and intelligence.

Operations Security (OPSEC) identifies friendly information requiring security from the enemy's collection efforts such that the enemy cannot determine friendly intentions. Because cyberspace is so pervasive, a cyber OPSEC plan is critical.

Psychological Operations seek to influence a target audience with the use of selected truthful information in order to coerce this audience to accept a position advantageous to friendly objectives. Television, radio, and social media hosted in cyberspace are common mediums.

Military Deception seeks to influence an adversary's information process such that the friendly operational intentions are misinterpreted or masked. As cyberspace hosts many adversaries' information processes, cyber operations will play a significant role in this function.

Computer Network Operations (CNO) are actions undertaken by military forces in cyberspace that target an adversary's information systems, defend Department of Defense information systems, and focus on vulnerabilities in the adversary's systems to gather data on their capabilities and intentions. Because CNO is where the cyber rubber hits the information operations highway, this function is discussed in depth later in the chapter.

Supporting Capabilities⁹³

Information assurance (IA) seeks to maintain the validity of information systems and trust in the information by ensuring the availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and non-repudiation of information. IA is a huge challenge for cyber operations but vital to the conduct of effective command and control. Conversely, cyber operations can downgrade an adversary's IA corrupting their decision-making process.

Physical Security safeguards personnel, hardware, and facilities from potential enemy actions including espionage, sabotage, damage, or theft linked to information operations.

⁹³ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, II-5 to II-8.

Physical Attack is the kinetic effects applied to the adversary's information systems, which in turn may influence target audiences.

Counterintelligence gathers information from intelligence sources in order to protect friendly forces from espionage and other intelligence activities. Cyber operations play an increasing role in the support of counterintelligence.

Combat Camera provides imagery to friendly forces in support of planning and operations across the spectrum of military missions. Most images are stored, disseminated, and viewed through cyber capabilities.

Related capabilities⁹⁴

Public Affairs inform target audiences on the conduct of the operations. The internet enables the rapid distribution of information to local and dispersed target audiences.

Civil-Military Operations are activities between the military, the civil population, or other government organizations that provide support to the civil community.

Defense Support to Public Diplomacy broadens awareness of international audiences to the foreign policies of a nation's government. The internet facilitates the communication of the commander's strategic message to the global community

Cyber Network Operations

In Cyber Network Operations, the line blurs between cyber operations and information operations. Though organizationally, the function can be listed under either, academic and doctrine writers argue that CNO belongs under one or the other. To avoid fratricide, duplication of effort, and turf wars between services and agencies, an unambiguous national directive should delineate organizational responsibilities. The 2006 US National Military Strategy for Cyber Operations provides an excellent framework to develop responsibilities and operational objectives. The National Military Strategy lists three components of CNO; Computer Network Attack; Computer Network Defense; and Computer Network Exploitation.⁹⁵

⁹⁴ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, II-8 to II-10.

⁹⁵ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *The National Military Strategy for Cyberspace Operations*, redacted ed. (Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Defense Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2006), GL-1.

Computer Network Attack (CNA) encompasses military “operations to disrupt, deny, degrade, or destroy information resident in computers and computer networks, or the computers and networks themselves.”⁹⁶ The term ‘Computer Network Attack’ is becoming increasingly redundant. Though CNA refers to a military operation, ‘cyber attack’ is becoming more accepted to describe activity by an individual, organization, military, or state that disrupts, denies, degrades, destroys, or manipulates another party’s cyber-based information. CNA supports military or national objectives, whereas cyber attack includes all motivations such as criminal, personal, financial, malicious, terrorism, or political, as well as military. The US military operates under stringent regulations for the conduct of CNA. General Keith Alexander, Commander US Cyber Command, stated in his Senate confirmation hearing that offensive operations are conducted only after the issuance of an execute order and then in accordance with rules of engagement.⁹⁷ Offensive operations could include disabling the cyber elements of the adversary’s command-and-control system or altering software code to corrupt sensor data. In many ways, CNA mirrors the targeting practices of kinetic operations.⁹⁸ Target selection is based on the target’s perceived impact on lines of operation and its collective ability to erode the adversary’s center of gravity. The differences between the types of operations are the weapons, spread of execution, global reach, and attribution footprint.

Cyber weapons. The weapons of cyber attack are increasing in complexity as the technology behind information systems increases and the experience in this type of weapon design advances. This complexity is apparent in the new generation of weapons that adapt to the specific targeted system “post launch, replacing the older generic viruses and worms.”⁹⁹ Adaptive weapons are capable of self-replicating and modifying themselves to navigate through various levels of defense mechanisms.¹⁰⁰ The payload of these cyber weapons can lay dormant for years waiting for a remote trigger or for a set of conditions,

⁹⁶ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *The National Military Strategy for Cyberspace Operations*, GL-1.

⁹⁷ Committee on Armed Services US Senate, "Nomination of LTG Keith B Alexander, USA, to Be General and Director, National Security Agency/Commander, US Cyber Command," (US Senate, Committee on Armed Services, 2010), 11.

⁹⁸ Sean Watts, "Combatant Status and Computer Network Attacks," in *Virginia Journal of International Law* (2010), 399.

⁹⁹ Watts, "Combatant Status and Computer Network Attacks," 402.

¹⁰⁰ Gary Waters, Desmond Ball, and Ian Dudgeon, *Australia and Cyber-Warfare*, Canberra Papers on Strategy and Defence ; No. 168 (Canberra, ACT: ANU Press., 2008), 44.

such as a specific radar return or electromagnetic signature. The most common types of cyber weapons are manipulative software, termed malware worms, and distributed denial of service software.

Malware. The more relevant types of malware used in cyber attacks include viruses, worms, and Trojan horses. The virus is a program that infects computers by attaching itself to a host program, then replicating itself and jumping across to another host. Like their biological namesakes, computer viruses spread through contact. Infected programs can be web-based (e.g. email attachments or websites) or attached to data or programs on a thumb-drive or compact disk. Worms are self-propagating code that can automatically distribute themselves through network connections. Current generation worms can selectively infect targeted programs as they move through a network, making it difficult to trace origins. Trojan horses, as the name suggests, are programs concealed in software that appears benign, and will remain dormant until triggered by an outside command, a set of conditions, or a time limit. Trojan horses are data-collection tools, with keyloggers that report on key strokes to another system allowing monitoring of passwords and activities, as well as rootkits that allow the conduct of unauthorized logins and activities on a host system without the host's awareness.¹⁰¹

Distributed denial of service. This form of cyber attack seeks to make a target information system unavailable to intended users by flooding bandwidth or servers with emails or website-access requests.¹⁰² The sheer volume of traffic, which can measure in the millions of hits per second, overwhelms servers causing them to crash, or clogs the bandwidth, restricting access to the targeted system and potentially other systems sharing the network.¹⁰³ Central to this form of cyber attack are the use of bots, which is software that accesses an individual computer, usually through malware, then surreptitiously sends out emails or pings targeted information systems.¹⁰⁴ The owner of the individual computer is normally oblivious to the cyber activity. When malware impregnates other computers, the bots can form a network allowing a distributed and coordinated attack on

¹⁰¹ Horst K Saalbach, "Cyber War Methods and Practice Version 3.0 " (Universitat Osnabuck, 2011), 9.

¹⁰² Saalbach, "Cyber War Methods and Practice Version 3.0 ", 10.

¹⁰³ Richard A. Clarke and Robert K. Knake, *Cyber War : The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It*, 1st ed. (New York, NY: Ecco, 2010), 25.

¹⁰⁴ Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, "What Is Bot?," https://www.ccc.go.jp/en_bot/ accessed 18 May 11.

information systems. Depending of the proliferation of the network of bots, called botnets, millions of computers could be enslaved and participate in cyber attacks. This form of cyber attack perpetuates the dilemma faced by responders.¹⁰⁵ If the source of an attack is traceable, should the owners of the computers used in the attack be liable for retribution? How can an organization responding to an attack guarantee attribution before initiating a counter-attack? This form of attack could also shift the blame from the originator to a competitor—whether that is another organization, another country, or a neutral third party—or make the attack appear to originate internally to a targeted state.

Lt Gen Alexander, in his Senate confirmation hearing for Commander US Cyber Command, stated that the issue of attribution would vex decision-makers who seek action and blame for a major attack. He acknowledged that the US Department of Defence is probed hundreds of thousands of times a day attempting to exploit the military information systems. Some are coordinated attacks, some seek out vulnerabilities in the system for use later, while others attempt to steal controlled information.¹⁰⁶ Cyber attacks are increasing and if the US, along with other nations, is to maintain the use of cyberspace, current defensive measures will require continual oversight and upgrades.

Computer Network Defense (CND) are “actions taken through the use of computer networks to protect, monitor, analyze, detect and respond to unauthorized activity within Department of Defense information systems and computer networks.”¹⁰⁷ The US and other modern nations like Australia rely heavily on the cyberspace-enabled activities to maintain their relative strategic advantages across all facets of their military capabilities. Continued access to cyberspace and protection of information systems from state and non-state actors seeking to counter our advantages is essential to the maintenance of our national interests. The cyber attacks on Georgia and Estonia brought home the vulnerability of military, government, and civil-sector cyber-enabled capabilities from a targeted assault. Computer network defence is the function that seeks to protect the military information systems from attack and ensure the cyber-enabled capabilities can operate relatively unhindered in a contested cyber environment. Defense-in-depth is not

¹⁰⁵ Saalbach, "Cyber War Methods and Practice Version 3.0 ", 10.

¹⁰⁶ US Senate, "Nomination of LTG Keith B Alexander, USA, to Be General and Director, National Security Agency/Commander, US Cyber Command," 17-18.

¹⁰⁷ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, GL-5.

as simple as putting up a firewall and sitting back to watch the viruses and Trojan horses being repelled. The complexity and ubiquity of cyberspace encourages a potential attacker to continually probe for vulnerabilities in a system that relies on friendly information to travel back and forth through any defenses with minimal impact. Unfortunately, the layers of defense are not always successful.

Even the best are vulnerable. The US has not always been successful in defending its network. The Department of Defense operates more than 15,000 networks, seven million computing devices, and employs more than 90,000 personnel involved directly in information systems.¹⁰⁸ The challenge of securing an information system this extensive almost guarantees the system will have vulnerabilities.

Deputy Secretary Lynn indicated that DoD suffered its worst cyber attack in 2008 when a single thumb drive, containing malware from an unidentified foreign agency, was inserted into a US network. The malware was a combination of worm and Trojan horse programs, silently spreading like a virus across every system touched. It then exported data from those systems to foreign organizations virtually unnoticed. Widespread use of thumb drives enabled the penetration of classified and unclassified systems.¹⁰⁹ The US changed its security protocols, but the character of the attack made analyzing the degree of damage difficult. The event pushed the issue of cyber defence to the forefront of many in the military who may have considered the US system secure. Reality touched the DoD, and cyber defence is now taken more seriously by a wider audience. Unfortunately, like most other revelations, it took a crisis to be the catalyst for change.

Attribution. If a cyber attack calls for a response, whom do you target? Deputy Secretary Lynn highlighted that data from a keystroke can travel around the world in less than 150 milliseconds, but identifying the perpetrator of an attack can take months.¹¹⁰ If sufficiently advanced states or organizations can shield their identity or deflect blame to another party, is there a place for deterrence in cyber operations? Equally, what if the attacker had very little reliance on cyberspace, such as North Korea or a terrorist group; how effective would a cyber response be?

¹⁰⁸ Deputy Secretary of Defense William J Lynn, "Remarks on Cyber at the Council on Foreign Relations," *Council on Foreign Relations*, (2010), <http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1509> accessed 20 Mar 11.

¹⁰⁹ Lynn, "Remarks on Cyber at the Council on Foreign Relations."

¹¹⁰ Lynn, "Remarks on Cyber at the Council on Foreign Relations."

In these situations, it is apparent that in developing a deterrence strategy against cyber attack, offensive cyber operations play only a small part in potential responses. Cyber attack can be the cheapest form of offense an adversary can develop. A team of less than 100 military or state-sponsored information technology specialists can develop tools that pose a serious threat to the opposition's physical capabilities. The threat may not be direct, though that may not be too far off. But information on an aircraft's radar, a ship's defensive systems, or a tank's firepower capabilities can identify weaknesses that the adversary can exploit—all with the operators unaware that their strengths have been compromised.¹¹¹

Deterrence. Any state that relies on cyberspace for its national interests has a stake in dissuading potential attackers from executing their offensive plans. As Martin Libicki states, "Deterrence is in the mind of the potential attacker," therefore deterrence is measured by the resolve of the adversary, which is almost impossible to gauge in the ubiquity of cyberspace.¹¹² Cyber weapons are not nuclear weapons; they are not existential threats. A cyber attack can seriously degrade a military's capabilities or affect the lifestyle of a nation, as per Estonia in 2007 and Georgia in 2008, but cyber by itself does not threaten the survivability of a country. Building a bigger or better "cyber bomb" is not likely to have the same deterrent influence in cyber as atomic weapons had on nuclear deterrence. Libicki argues, "the better one's defenses the less likely it is that an attack will succeed and so the less often a cyber deterrence policy will be tested" and "a good defense adds credibility to the threat to retaliate...good defenses have a way of filtering out third party attacks."¹¹³ If two walls confront an attacker, one made of thick steel and one made of aluminum, and his weapon is a metal spike, it is likely he will attack the weaker structure, unless he is focused on the steel target; even then, he is unlikely to succeed.

Therefore, deterrence in cyberspace should include both strengthened defenses and the threat of retaliation. The more robust an organization's cyber defense, the less risk of a cyber attack occurring because the attacker may assess the futility of his plan. Similarly,

¹¹¹ Lynn, "Remarks on Cyber at the Council on Foreign Relations."

¹¹² Martin C. Libicki, *Cyberdeterrence and Cyberwar*, Rand Corporation Monograph Series (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2009), 183.

¹¹³ Libicki, *Cyberdeterrence and Cyberwar*, 73.

the more robust the defenses, the lower the risk that a cyber intrusion will succeed. But a cyber attack is an attack against the state, whether it exceeds a political threshold for initiating a national response or not. Therefore, as with any deterrent effort, strategy will be more effective if it draws on all the elements of national power. Cyber is just one tool in the deterrence quiver.¹¹⁴

Computer Network Exploitation (CNE) is activities that enable “operations and intelligence collection capabilities conducted through the use of computer networks to gather data from target or adversary automated information systems or networks.”¹¹⁵

From a broad view, the actions undertaken to conduct computer network attack and computer network exploitation can appear very similar.¹¹⁶ The two functions may focus on the same information systems and use similar technologies to undertake their operations. The difference between the two boils down to purpose. In computer network attack, cyberspace provides the opportunity to influence an adversary’s decision-making ability, whereas those conducting computer network exploitation use cyberspace to support their own decision-making ability. Information, such as operational plans, platform capabilities, intelligence assessments, logistical status, and personnel data is exported from the adversary’s information systems to develop a better knowledge base on the enemy’s capabilities and intent. The importance of this type of information has been acknowledged for thousands of years. Sun Tzu espoused that intelligence and secret operations are essential to an army’s success in war; “upon them the army relies to make every move.”¹¹⁷ For Sun Tzu, intelligence came from agents or spies; in computer network exploitation the Trojan horse malware inserted to siphon off information represents cyber agents, performing the same function and still as critical to success in war.

Access is the gateway to cyber operations. Access is an element of cyber operations common to all countries. In cyber operations access is everything. It is the gate through which all cyber weapons travel to achieve their effects. If access is denied, as is the goal of cyber network defense, offensive cyber operations are muted. The

¹¹⁴ Richard Kugler, "Deterrence of Cyber Attacks," in *Cyberpower and National Security*, ed. Franklin D. Kramer, Stuart H. Starr, and Larry K. Wentz (Washington, DC: Potomac Books, 2009), 310.

¹¹⁵ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, GL-6.

¹¹⁶ Mesic, *Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional) Decision Support 9*.

¹¹⁷ Sun Tzu and Griffith, *The Illustrated Art of War*, 239.

military have a prime role in establishing and maintaining cyber access, though in cyber terms the period for access can be measured in seconds. Access is accomplished in three ways. First, through remote access; this is the admission into and out of a targeted system from home station system. For all military operations, DSD in Australia and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in the UK conduct these actions. A second type is close access where the military units operate close enough to conduct electro-magnetic (EM) or electronic surveys of the local information systems. Military units could scan or map the local EM environment for uses such as cell phones, WiFi transmitters, or any use of the EM spectrum in a local area. This task could be conducted by any trained ground unit, or by air platforms equipped with appropriate sensors. This is an example of conducting cyber operations across the EM spectrum. The third type is closed access and is likely to sit in the realm of Special Forces units. Closed access is where specialists physically break into a building, put hardware and software onto a closed loop information system, capture and send information out to a receiver, and rebroadcast the data to another location. This would be the function of the *Special Air Service*.

Cyber warfare = cyber attack + defense. Clausewitz asserts that the defensive form of warfare is stronger than offense, but it has a negative purpose and should be the primary function only as long as weakness compels. However, attack has the positive purpose of conquest, and if conflict is unavoidable, increases the capacity to wage war.¹¹⁸ Thus, Australia has placed a large emphasis on security because Australia's preferred approach is to use actions other than the use of force. Robust cyber defence provides two major advantages: it provides Australia the ability to minimize the disruption or damage from cyber attack, regardless of the perpetrator; and supports the exploitation of cyberspace by friendly offensive forces, both kinetic and non-kinetic. Australia's cyber attack capabilities, like those of most other nations, are classified. However, the Defence White Paper indicated that Australia is undertaking a major enhancement of Defence's

¹¹⁸ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 358.

cyber warfare capability to provide amongst other capabilities, “a much-enhanced cyber situational awareness and incident response capability.”¹¹⁹

As previously argued, cyber warfare includes both offense and defense. Similar types of cyber weapons used to attack friendly information systems are available for use during the conduct of cyber-attack operations by Australian cyber forces. As with kinetic operations, Defence will be restricted in target selection, with an authorization to execute dependent upon the degree of collateral damage, the effects generated by the attack, and the subsequent second and third-order consequences. Unlike kinetic effects, many of these effects are difficult to accurately predicate, even with precision cyber targeting. Cyber-attack operations will produce measurable strategic, operational, and tactical effects because information influences decision-making.

But information by itself will not win a war. Therefore, cyber attack, and more broadly cyber warfare, is unlikely to be used in isolation from the other elements of war. Defence will use cyber operations during all phases of a conflict, and these could make up a large percentage of the shaping operations to reduce the physical footprint in theater. During the more active phases, cyber operations will be conducted to support air, sea, land, and space activities, and may be used to support the diplomatic, economic, and informational instruments of national power. Defence continues to expand its cyber operations to enhance its capabilities across all the warfighting domains. Cyberspace and cyber warfare has enabled the transformation of military operations into a style that more effectively integrates the benefits of the cyber domain. With the increasing advancements in technology, and the timeless thirst for information to support the decision-maker, Network Centric Warfare emerges.

Network Centric Warfare

Network Centric Warfare means many things to many people. It is not cyber operations or internet-centric warfare, nor is it information warfare—although it utilizes elements of all these functions.¹²⁰ It is the fusion of the information available to decision-makers at all levels to reduce the organizational stovepipes, enabling the development and

¹¹⁹ Department of Defence Australia, *Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century : Force 2030 : Defence White Paper 2009* (Canberra, ACT: Dept. of Defence, 2009), 83.

¹²⁰ Lieutenant General (USAF retired) Joseph Hurd, "Network Centric Warfare and Air Power," in *Network Centric Warfare and the Future of Air Power: 2004 Air Power Conference*, ed. Keith Brent (Canberra, ACT: Air Power Development Centre, Royal Australian Air Force, 2004), 23.

application of knowledge superior to that of an adversary. The network is a conduit that connects the huge range of sensors, radios, command-and-control systems, and situational-awareness systems such as blue force tracker and data links. The network—or more accurately networks—allow the transfer of information to the appropriate decision-maker. Network Centric Operations enable a more focused use of information so that decision-makers and operators can conduct more effective warfare. In fact, the United Kingdom may be more accurate in its labeling of this style of warfare as Network Enabled Capability.¹²¹ Network Centric Warfare will require a broadening of the relationship between humans, technology, and cyberspace in military operations.¹²² David Alberts and Richard Haynes argue that power occurs where the greatest means and opportunity for influence can be applied; that Network Centric Warfare has enabled a decentralized shift, or movement closer to the edge.¹²³ Enabling greater influence at the edge of the network web enables a decrease in stove-piping of information, increasing the power and influence of the organization over an adversary.¹²⁴

Network Centric Warfare is not centered on technology but on the decision-maker and the operator. An adversary who blends into the general population can nullify the best sensor-to-shooter process. This means Network Centric Warfare is not just a shift to high-end technology, but a move to technology that fits the context of the operational environment. The goal of Network Centric Warfare is superior decision-making, leading to superior influence over the adversary. Network Centric Warfare is about using the right technology at the right time to meet informational requirements. If that means using a contracted agent sitting on a hill with a satellite phone rather than a billion-dollar imagery satellite, then so be it. All other activities are peripheral to getting inside the adversaries' decision cycle—their OODA loop—so the shape and tempo of operations are shaped

¹²¹ Air Vice Marshal (RAF) Iain McNicoll, "Network Centric Warfare Perspectives from the United Kingdom," in *Network Centric Warfare and the Future of Air Power: 2004 Air Power Conference*, ed. Keith Brent (Canberra, ACT: Air Power Development Centre, Royal Australian Air Force, 2004), 37.

¹²² Air Marshal (RAAF) Angus Houston, "Keynote Speech" (paper presented at the Network Centric Warfare and the Future of Air Power: 2004 Air Power Conference, Canberra, ACT, 2004), 19.

¹²³ David S Alberts and Richard E Hayes, *Power to the Edge : Command and Control in the Information Age*, CCRP Publication Series Information Age Transformation Series (Washington, DC: Command and Control Research Program, 2003), 166-70.

¹²⁴ Alberts and Hayes, *Power to the Edge*, 177.

favorably towards a friendly advantage.¹²⁵ Thus, Network Centric Warfare is a people-centric activity supported by technology, processes, and cyber operations.¹²⁶

Network Centric Warfare is not the same as cyber operations, though many of its core features will rely on cyberspace. Cyber operations enhance the collection and distribution of information in and through the cyberspace domain. Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems are producing greater levels of information, but unless that information is channeled to the decision-maker or operator in a timely manner, its value reduces rapidly.¹²⁷ Cyber operations and cyberspace are the conduits to get the information to the right people at the right time, regardless of their physical location. Offensive cyber operations can provide insight into the adversary's decision space, while defensive cyber operations will maintain information assurance and reduce the risk of disruption to the information flow. Cyber operations are essential to military operations and the development of Network Centric Warfare, but they are an enabler, an element of the larger concept, not the concept itself.

Network Centric Warfare does not change the military's strategic reasons for being, nor does it change the Clausewitzian nature of war. Violence, chance, and uncertainty will continue to pervade all facets of conflict; however, Network Centric Warfare can sway chance towards those with superior decision-making and reduce, not erase, some of the fog of war.

Summary

Clausewitz and Sun Tzu are alive and residing in the depths of cyberspace. Indeed, they may have written their dictums for conventional warfare, but their strategic guidance is as timeless as Aristotelian philosophy. Society is firmly plugged into cyberspace with nearly every facet of human activities reliant upon it in some way. Clausewitz's trinity of government, military, and the population captures both the interconnectivity of society and the strategic interdependence each side of the trinity has on cyberspace. Equally, Sun Tzu understood the importance of information and the effect it has on success in war. He appreciated the value of indirectness, the role of deception, and the significance of

¹²⁵ Houston, "Network Centric Warfare and the Future of Air Power", 10-11.

¹²⁶ Houston, "Network Centric Warfare and the Future of Air Power", 10.

¹²⁷ Waters, Ball, and Dudgeon, *Australia and Cyber-Warfare*, 7.

information secretly collected on an adversary's capabilities. Cyber operations facilitate all these activities. Cyber operations include all activity, friendly or adversarial, conducted to achieve desired objectives in or through cyberspace. These activities include cyber attack, cyber defense, and support to cyber-enabled capabilities such as command-and-control systems.

Cyberspace is its own and unique warfighting domain, sitting not separately from but across the physical domains of air, land, sea, and space. The core element of cyberspace is information. In the military environment, information operations integrate the employment of a series of core, supporting and enabling capabilities to influence, disrupt, corrupt, or usurp adversarial human and automated decision making while protecting our own.¹²⁸ The military cyber element of information operations is computer network operations, which is broken into computer network attack, computer network defense, and computer network exploitation. Military cyber operations are critical to the freedom of maneuver in cyberspace, but the full potential of cyber operations occur when military cyber operations are integrated with the other elements of national power, such as the Australian Defence Force, and the vivacity provided by the public sector.

The Australian Defence Force, along with many modern militaries, is exploiting the benefits inherent in cyberspace to transform its operational methodologies. Land forces have long embraced the concept of mission orders, decentralizing control and execution to the furthest edges of its command chain. The length of this chain has always been limited by the information systems and the ability to rapidly gain situational awareness of the tactical, operational, and strategic environment. Network Centric Warfare removes stovepipes, stretches the chain of influence out further, and flattens the organizational model, thereby gaining information superiority and getting inside the adversary's decision-making cycle. Cyberspace and cyber operations are elements essential in bringing about this transformation, but they are not the only elements. The focus of Network Centric Warfare is the human decision-maker. All the technology, processes, and communication infrastructure are peripheral to the people that the information is intended for. The right information at the right time can be turned into decisive knowledge if supplied to the right person. Network Centric Warfare seeks to

¹²⁸ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-13: Information Operations*, GL-9.

harmonize all the elements that provide information and build the knowledge base sufficiently to push power to the edge.



Chapter 3

CYBER AUSTRALIA

Like other modern nations, Australia is wired to cyberspace. Blackberrys, iPhones, cable television, Facebook, and on-line banking are accepted parts of the Australian culture, and all rely on cyberspace for their continued existence. With a few cleverly placed lines of code, all these could disappear, at least for a period of time. Admittedly, most of these items are convenient to Australia's lifestyle and not critical to her national security interests. So how much does cyberspace fuel those interests Australia considers vital to the stability of its national security environment? Moreover, what would happen if that fuel was cut off or contaminated? Who has the responsibility for maintaining the free flow of information that fuels Australia's security interests and blocking contaminants from infecting the national security engines?

This chapter lays out the chain of responsibility for Australia's national cyber security that runs from the government to the individual. An overview of Australia's national security environment provides an appreciation of how and why the various responsibilities for elements of the cyber domain developed. At the pinnacle of national strategy is the 2008 Prime Ministerial National Security Statement from which the 2009 Defence White Paper, Cyber Security Strategy, and other national security documents took their guidance. The buck for national security ultimately stops at the Prime Minister, but the process to support the maintenance of cyber security is multi-faceted. Each nation's security interests vary with its security environment and domestic organization. Understanding what national security means to Australia is the first step to understanding Australia's approach to cyberspace.

What is National Security to the Australian Government?

The 2009 Australian Defence White Paper contends national security "is concerned with ensuring Australia's freedom from attack or the threat of attack, maintaining our territorial integrity and promoting our political sovereignty, preserving

our freedoms, and sustaining fundamental capacity to advance economic prosperity for all Australians.”¹²⁹ National security supports Australia’s strategic interests, of which the highest priority is the defense of Australia against direct-armed attack, either by states or by non-state actors with strategic capabilities such as WMD.¹³⁰ Professor Hugh White, Head of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, argues that the highest priority strategic interest, and the primary role of Defence, is to “hedge against the risk that a collapse in the international order in Asia over the next few decades might sharply increase the risk of conventional conflict.”¹³¹ Cyber operations can neither prevent the collapse of international order nor stop a direct-armed attack, but they can disrupt an adversary’s capabilities and assist in providing some degree of strategic warning.

The second priority is the security, stability, and cohesion of Australia’s nearest neighbors. Combined cyber operations can prove mutually advantageous by enhancing elements of other nations’ information systems and standardizing defensive measures, thus securing greater cooperation and increased security. Countries in Australia’s neighborhood that feel secure are less likely to conduct asymmetric growth in offensive capabilities or host powers unfriendly to Australia due to a perception of a security imbalance.

If the world is in chaos, Australia will not be able to sit in its corner of the world and feign stability. Stability in the broader Asia-Pacific region, and a stable, rules-based global security order, are the next significant strategic interests.¹³² Australia is proactive in the region in the promotion of stability, and its approach mirrors its current attitude to national security.

Approach to national security. Diplomatic, economic, and informational support to maintain a stable global and regional environment is Australia’s best solution to

¹²⁹ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 20. This position on national security mirrors the definition presented by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in his 2008 National Security Statement to Parliament.

¹³⁰ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 41.

¹³¹ Hugh White, "Security, Prosperity, and Defence," in *Australia's Security and Prosperity: Ideas for 2020*, ed. William Maley (Dept. of International Relations, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University Canberra, <http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/pubs/keynotes/documents/Keynotes-9.pdf> accessed 23 Mar 11, 2008), 17.

¹³² Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 42-43.

preserving national security; however, under the norms of international law and United Nations obligations, Australia will, if required, use force to establish and maintain its national security.

Australia will pursue means other than military force if the security situation enables such a response.¹³³ This approach was evident during Australia's intervention in East Timor during the 1990s. Significant effort was undertaken in the United Nations, as well as directly with Indonesia, to support East Timor's push for self-determination. The world media highlighted the East Timorese struggle for interdependence, and Australia strengthened its economic ties with both Indonesia and the East Timorese in a bid to reduce the tension. With mounting violence threatening to destabilize the region, Australia, with Indonesian permission and under the flag of a United Nations-sanctioned peacekeeping mission, entered East Timor to conduct military operations to stabilize the region. Force is the least preferred approach, but utilized when the national security environment evolves to a point where other options are unworkable.

National Security Environment

Global. The potential for a war between the major powers is considered remote, with trade interdependencies and other shared concerns such as transnational crime, global terrorism, and drug markets reducing the risk. However, unforeseen breakdown in international relations or a change of domestic politics can lead to tensions that could rapidly escalate into hostilities; thus the possibility of a major war, though distant, cannot be ruled out.¹³⁴

Intra-state. Armed conflict short of conventional war will be the most common form of dispute that will influence Australian's national security interests in the period out to 2030. Combat operations, typified by counterinsurgency, stabilization, or peacekeeping, will reflect the most common style of operations Australia's military forces will be prepared to undertake.¹³⁵

Non-state actors. Terrorist groups, drug cartels, and crime syndicates are not an existential threat to Australia's national security, but these groups can undertake localized

¹³³ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 20.

¹³⁴ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 21-22.

¹³⁵ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 22.

activities that harm Australian citizens or property, undermining the population's confidence in the government. This threat amplifies if non-state actors attain WMD, or conduct nation-wide cyber attacks.¹³⁶

Asia-Pacific region. Current trends indicate the Asia-Pacific region will weather the current global financial crisis with some impacts to short-term gross domestic profits. However, in the longer term, a renewed sense of shared purpose and strategic interests may emerge, building regional stability and enhancing each country's national security.¹³⁷ Australia's national security is linked to stability in the Asian-Pacific region. The greatest risk to regional stability will be a shift in the power relationship between China, US, Japan, India, and Russia that could increase tension in the regions and generate instability. Regional countries will align with different powers and, as tension increases, may resort to cyber operations as a means to influence other nations without crossing the threshold into armed conflict.

Jumping the air-sea gap. The White Paper states, "The enduring reality of our strategic outlook is that Australia will most likely remain, by virtue of our geostrategic location, a secure country over the period to 2030. We are distant from traditional theatres of conflict between the major powers, and there is an absence of any serious, enduring disputes with our neighbors that could provide a motive for an attack."¹³⁸ Figure 7 depicts the geographic divide that exists between Australia and its regional neighbors, with the air-sea gap highlighted in the insert standing as a barrier to physical forces. While Papua New Guinea stands as Australia's closest neighbor, its terrain is unsuitable for mounting a significant land campaign; as Japan discovered during WWII. Unfortunately, Australia's maritime approaches present no barrier to a cyber attack. Actors who wish to use force, but do not have the physical capability to bridge the air-sea gap to Australia's north, may resort to cyber attacks as a means to dispense violence on the Australian populous.¹³⁹ The Australian Defence Force has the responsibility for securing the air-sea gap, but who has the responsibility for securing the cyber gap?

¹³⁶ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 24.

¹³⁷ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 33.

¹³⁸ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 49.

¹³⁹ Violence in the context discussed in Chapter 1.

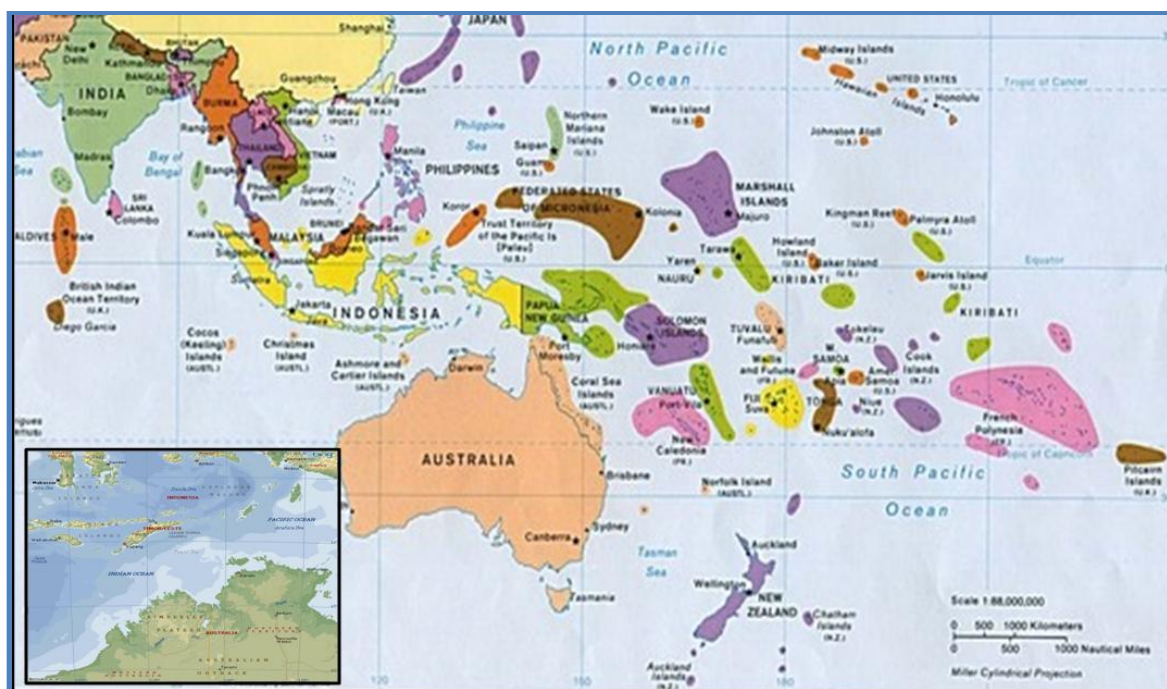


Figure 7. Australian geographic environment with northern air-sea gap insert

Source. Maps adapted from <http://easttimorlegal.blogspot.com/2011/01/timor-sea-program-amendment-gets-ok.html> and <http://mappery.com/East-Asia-and-Oceania-Political-Map> accessed 26 Mar 11

Australia's National Security Statement

National Security Statement. In 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered Australia's first National Security Statement. This Statement provided a national security policy framework from which a Government reform agenda would sustain the security of Australia's national interests.¹⁴⁰ In lieu of a documented strategy, Ric Smith, the author of a report that provided the foundation for the Statement, asserted that future national security needs could be addressed through periodic statements by the Prime Minister, and by the articulation of the Government's strategic priorities.¹⁴¹ The Statement outlined the current strategic environment around which the national security agenda is framed. Amongst concerns such as defense against physical attack, transnational crime, and border

¹⁴⁰ Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, "Australian National Security Statement - 2008," in *The First National Security Statement To The Australian - Parliament Address By The Prime Minister Of Australia The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP*, http://www.iseas.edu.sg/aseanstudiescentre/ascd3_Rudd_NatSec_041209.pdf accessed 23 Mar 11, 39.

¹⁴¹ Ric Smith, "Report of the Review Homeland and Border Security: Recommendations and Conclusions - 2008," (Canberra: Government of Australia, <http://www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au/getdoc/0be3af5e-16eb-4ba5-93c0-b83cb3a55860/TEN.004.002.0431.pdf> accessed 23 Mar 11), 2. This report formed the foundation for the 2008 National Security Statement.

protection, the Statement postured cyber security as a high priority on the Government's agenda and list of initiatives.

Strengths and weaknesses. Through the statement, the Government undertook a number of excellent initiatives, such as the establishment of the Cyber Security Operations Centre and the Computer Emergency Response Team, which will enhance Australia resistance to cyber attack. Unfortunately, the 2008 NSS does not provide a framework for a security strategy, but a framework for the development of a series of White Papers that suffer from lack of strategic integration. Individually the White Papers are excellent documents that clearly set out that Department's individual strategy to support national security interests. However, a lack of documented executive guidance limits the ability to articulate fully the authoritative responsibilities, integration processes, and coordination required if a National Security Community is to develop into an effective entity—one capable of undertaking a Whole-of-Government response to a crisis.¹⁴² The buck may stop at the Prime Minister if a serious national security event such as a national cyber attack occurs, but subordinate echelons will share plenty of blame. Ric Smith alludes, "While crisis management by the [Australian] Commonwealth has generally been done well 'on the day', the current hazard-specific approach and the absence of consistent national arrangements for handling significant crises exposes the Government to several areas of vulnerability...Emergency management across all hazards has received limited senior attention within the Commonwealth."¹⁴³ Effective response to any national security crisis, such as an Estonia-style cyber attack, begins with robust strategic guidance. The National Security Statement provided some guidance from which the 2009 Defence White Paper developed a strategy that enables a national response to potential future crises.

National Security Strategic guidance. The Defence White Paper states "Defence is one element of our broader approach to national security, underpinning our capacity to act in the world by providing options when Government contemplates the use of force."¹⁴⁴ There is no argument with this statement; however, Australia is yet to publish a National

¹⁴² John Blackburn and Gary Walters, *Optimising Australia's Response to the Cyber Challenge*, ed. David Schmidchen, Kokoda Papers; No 14 (Canberra, ACT: Kokoda Foundation, 2011). Blackburn and Waters refer specifically to an integrated cyber strategy, but integration throughout all national security strategy is essential.

¹⁴³ Smith, "Report of the Review Homeland and Border Security," 3.

¹⁴⁴ Department of Defence Australia, *Australian Defence White Paper 2009*, 20.

Security Strategy, which would provide the “broader approach.” Defence is a vital component to the security of Australia, and the White Paper provides a clear approach for how Defence plans to approach future strategic challenges, but as the paper indicated, Defence is just one element. Without a hierarchical, authoritative document, other governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, have little guidance on the government’s plan for the integration of all elements into the broader security environment. The US learnt in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy that a national strategic approach to security is essential, and the lack of strategic direction, in their case across their intelligence organizations, contributed to gaps in their national security. Security requires a Whole-of-Government (WoG)—indeed a whole-of-society—approach. How is Defence to integrate with elements of DFAT, Immigration, Treasury, Attorney-General, or the private and public sector to provide national security? The reciprocal can be asked of each of these organizations as well. In the event of a national security incident who has responsibility for what? What if this incident is cyber-based? What is the ADF’s role? These questions will be addressed in this chapter.

In the National Security Statement, the Prime Minister acknowledged Australia’s growing vulnerability to cyber attack from foreign states, as well as commercial, criminal, and self-interest actors, due to the reliance on information to “lubricate our economy and system of government.”¹⁴⁵ The challenge the Government faces is determining the magnitude of consequences a major cyber attack would have on Australia’s economic, social, and military environment; herein lies some of the problem. It is very difficult to gauge the degree of disruption, damage, corruption, or destruction a cyber attack has on a particular information system. Unlike a kinetic attack where destruction is almost immediately measurable, effects from cyber attacks may be masked or illusory. During the 2010 Stuxnet cyber attack of the Iranian nuclear facility, the operators were reportedly not even aware an attack was occurring due to the masking effects of the virus.¹⁴⁶ Even with situational awareness of a cyber attack, second and third-order consequences may not be appreciated. Using the Iranian attack as a hypothetical example, the attacker’s goal may have been to demonstrate the ability of an outside party to take over certain control

¹⁴⁵ Rudd, “Australian National Security Statement - 2008,” 23-24.

¹⁴⁶ The Economist, *The Stuxnet Worm; Yet to Turn*, <http://www.economist.com/node/17730556> (The Economist website, 6 Dec 10), accessed 6 Feb 11.

functions from the Iranians. The complexity of cyberspace could have resulted in unforeseen software corruption, triggering an unintended crash of the nuclear fuel-rod cooling system, resulting in a nuclear meltdown and widespread radiological contamination. Understanding the complexities of cyberspace, the vulnerabilities it brings with its advantages, and the impact of consequences orders of magnitude below the observed effect are special responsibilities the Commonwealth has in the development of the national security policy and strategy.¹⁴⁷ It is therefore critical for the clarification of roles and responsibilities during all cyber operations to avoid confusion and duplication of effort.

New level of leadership, direction, and coordination. Given Australia's size and current available expertise, the Government elected to reinvigorate the leadership, direction, and coordination among the current agencies rather than develop new organizations. Improved integration and information sharing, alongside better strategic planning and coordination will deliver a synergistic approach to national security.¹⁴⁸ Ric Smith emphasized the need to strengthen interagency ties when he advocated, "while Australian Government agencies are committed to whole-of-government performance and generally understand their roles in the broad national security community, there is a need for an overarching policy framework and for strategic direction. Such a framework would better equip the Government to plan and evaluate the activities of agencies and to ensure targeted resource allocation that reflects current priorities."¹⁴⁹ The National Security Statement presented the opportunity to describe publicly a framework upon which all agencies develop a whole-of-government approach to security; however, as argued previously the Statement did not provide a strategy to build such a framework. This does not mean a strategy or framework does not exist. Guidance from the National Security Committee of Cabinet or the Secretaries Committee on National Security could provide strategy guidance in confidential documents. The Secretaries' Committee on National Security, known as SCNS, remains the lead Australian interdepartmental committee on national security policy and operational matters. SCNS coordinates the implementation of

¹⁴⁷ Smith, "Report of the Review Homeland and Border Security," 4.

¹⁴⁸ Rudd, "Australian National Security Statement - 2008," 33.

¹⁴⁹ Smith, "Report of the Review Homeland and Border Security," 2.

the Government's security policy directives and provides advice to the National Security Committee of Cabinet on departmental national security issues.¹⁵⁰

Australian Attorney-General – the cyber Prince. Cyber Australia does not have a cyber czar responsible for all national cyber-related issues, but the Australian Attorney-General has the portfolio to coordinate security and emergency management activity, including cyber activity. A cyber czar is not necessary in the Australian context as the Government aims to normalize cyber security as just another element of security, rather than to hold it up as beacon for the moths to attack.¹⁵¹ The Cyber Security Strategy states that the "Attorney-General's Department is the lead agency for cyber security policy across the Australian Government and chairs the Cyber Security Policy and Coordination (CSPC) Committee, which is the interdepartmental committee that coordinates the development of cyber security policy for the Australian Government."¹⁵² This places the Attorney-General largely responsible for measures relating to the security, availability, and integrity of all government information that is processed, stored, and communicated by electronic or similar means.¹⁵³ This responsibility does not mean the Attorney-General's department actually conducts cyber operations, but it does provide interdepartmental guidance. Much of this guidance is formalized in the 2009 Cyber Security Strategy, which details, "how the Australian Government is harnessing the full range of resources to help protect government, business, and individual Australians. It describes how new capabilities have been created to help Australians, and the businesses they transact with, be better protected."¹⁵⁴ In line with the National Security Statement, the Cyber Security Strategy breaks down the responsibilities of the government, private, and public sectors.

Cyber Security Strategy

Responsibility for cyber security is broken into four areas: government, critical national infrastructure, private sector, and the public sector. The Cyber Security Strategy

¹⁵⁰ Rudd, "Australian National Security Statement - 2008," 37.

¹⁵¹ Blackburn and Walters, *Optimising Australia's Response to the Cyber Challenge*, 20.

¹⁵² Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," ed. Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra, ACT: Attorney General's Department, 2009), 8.

¹⁵³ Attorney-General's Department, "E-Security," Attorney-General's Departmental website, http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Nationalsecurity_E-Security accessed 27 Mar 11.

¹⁵⁴ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," i.

asserts that users in the cyber environment should take appropriate actions to secure their own systems and exercise attention to the transmission and storage of information.¹⁵⁵

Cyber security entails shared responsibilities, and Australia's cyber strategy is braced by a partnership approach to cyber security across all Australian governments, the private sector, and the broader Australian community.¹⁵⁶

Government. Responsibility for the dot gov domain, including Defence, lies with government. The government information systems, and the information residing within them, are strategic national assets.¹⁵⁷ Because the government owns these systems, it has mandated minimum security standards that apply across all departmental information systems.¹⁵⁸ However, Australian government systems represent only a small percentage of the information systems on which economic and national security depend.¹⁵⁹ Most prodigious are those information systems belonging to the public and private sectors, while the most vulnerable are those supporting the nation's critical infrastructure.

Critical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure delivers essential services such as power, water, health, communications systems, and banking.¹⁶⁰ It is Australian policy that the government, owners, and operators share the responsibility for the continuity of critical infrastructure.¹⁶¹ Not all infrastructures are hardware or cyber-based, with many elements consisting of networks or supply chains. Bringing electricity from the power plant to the fax machine involves linking many physical and cyber-based elements involving a complex network of producers, control systems, and distribution infrastructure.¹⁶² The Australia Government has adopted a dual approach to facilitating the security of critical infrastructure.

The first step is the implementation of a Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy in 2010. This strategy seeks to reduce the risk of disruption of services delivered by the critical infrastructure through assisting the owners and operators to better manage "both

¹⁵⁵ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 8.

¹⁵⁶ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 8.

¹⁵⁷ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 21.

¹⁵⁸ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 21.

¹⁵⁹ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 14.

¹⁶⁰ Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)," ed. Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra, ACT: Attorney General's Department, 2010), 3.

¹⁶¹ Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)," 3.

¹⁶² Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)," 8.

foreseeable and unforeseen or unexpected risks to their assets, supply chains and networks.”¹⁶³ A key initiative of this strategy is the Trusted Information Sharing Network, a forum where the owners and operators of critical infrastructure work together with government, sharing information on the security issues that affect them. The focus of this approach is to empower the owners and operators of critical infrastructure to strengthen and improve their security measures and to help inform their risk management.¹⁶⁴

At the heart of critical cyber infrastructure are the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, devices, and networks used to electronically control mechanical processes such as the generation and transmission of electricity. Because of the complexity of modern critical infrastructure, SCADA systems are the cyber Achilles’ heel towards which a cyber attack would be focused. The Cyber Security Strategy and the Trusted Information Sharing Network seek to increase the resilience of Australia’s critical infrastructure to disruption or damage from any risk, including attacks from the cyber domain.¹⁶⁵

Private sector. The business community bears the responsibility for the security of their information systems.¹⁶⁶ Business owners and operators—the dot com/dot org/dot au domains—must manage their own risks; however, the government accepts a responsibility to assist the private sector to understand and mitigate the threats they face.¹⁶⁷ In particular, the Cyber Security Strategy commits the Government to actively participating in and facilitating trusted and timely information sharing within and between government and business.¹⁶⁸ The Government’s goal is for Australian businesses to operate secure and resilient information systems to protect the integrity of their own operations and the identity and privacy of their customers.¹⁶⁹ In the event of a major cyber attack on the private sector, the Government has laid out where the responsibility lies for cyber security; however, it is arguable whether the public sector knows where to turn if the power shuts off, its mobile phones cut out, Facebook freezes, or retirement funds disappear.

¹⁶³ Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)," 4.

¹⁶⁴ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 20.

¹⁶⁵ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 13.

¹⁶⁶ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 11.

¹⁶⁷ Smith, "Report of the Review Homeland and Border Security," 6.

¹⁶⁸ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 15.

¹⁶⁹ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," vi.

Public sector. Like the private sector, it is the policy of the Australian Government that individuals in the public sector bear the responsibility to “ensure their personal and financial information and their identity and privacy are protected, it is essential that they maintain an awareness and understanding of the cyber environment and its risks.”¹⁷⁰

CERT. In partnership with the private sector, the Government is committed to educating Australians on cyber security risks and empowering them with the knowledge to reduce the risk from cyber threats.¹⁷¹ A key initiative mandated in the National Security Statement and enacted through the Cyber Security Strategy, is the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT, which falls under the responsibility of the Attorney-General, will educate the public and private sectors on cyber threats and provide information on how to better protect themselves.¹⁷² It will also be another avenue for owners and operators of critical infrastructure to seek advice on reducing threats to their services. The Government has promoted CERT as a one-stop shop for advice and education, but with no advertised authority to take direct action against a cyber attack on the public or private sector. If this is the case, then the population should be asking what response they could expect in the event of a cyber-based (computer) emergency.

Regulation. The Australian Government views its role in the public and private sector as promoter of a robust culture of cyber security, educating the population on how to protect themselves rather than directing the public and private sectors on the measures they must take via regulation. This is akin to teaching a group to farm so they can sustain themselves.

So why not more regulation? The Australian Government is the industry regulator in other sectors, such as aviation and maritime, so why not legislate cyber security standards for the public and private sector, as they have for the governmental departments?

Australia’s non-regulatory approach is formulated around the premise that the owners and operators of information systems understand the risks to their operations and have an inherent self-interest to mitigate the risks. In its Critical Infrastructure Resilience

¹⁷⁰ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 17.

¹⁷¹ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 10.

¹⁷² Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 9.

Strategy, the Australian Government asserted that regulations are “not suitable for critical infrastructure as the identification of minimum-security benchmarks or regulations across industry can be difficult, even within specific sectors.”¹⁷³

However, it is of concern that in a sector the consequence of a cyber attack could be widespread and debilitating to the national security environment, yet the onus for mitigating the risk falls on those having to balance the profit margins. Alastair MacGibbon argues that self-regulation has a shaded history with numerous examples of failure in the telecommunications sector.¹⁷⁴ Many of the initiatives put in place by industry have been reactionary to a crisis rather than precautionary. In an economically challenged environment, it is difficult to justify to the shareholders spending large amounts of capital on problems that may never arise.

Given the cost of a successful cyber attack on a critical infrastructure SCADA system, should not a trust-but-verify strategy be considered? In a liberal democracy, freedom has its risks.

Government Cyber Operations

The Cyber Security Strategy clearly articulated that the Government has the responsibility for “the security and resilience of its own ICT (information communication technology), including protecting the information it holds about Australian people and organisations.”¹⁷⁵ The Government looks to achieve this objective through the education of governmental employees on cyber threats and their responsibilities in security processes, extensive security protocols, cyber security software, and cyber hardware with built-in security components. Over the top of these actions, a set of cyber security regulations provide common cyber security standards for all departments in an attempt to minimize potential cyber backdoors. These institutional measures, incorporated over the past decade, enable a collective departmental approach to cyber security.

To build on these protective capabilities, the Government has designated the Department of Defence to be the operational lead on governmental cyber security operations. In the 2009 Defence White Paper, the establishment of a Cyber Security

¹⁷³ Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)," 14.

¹⁷⁴ Alastair MacGibbon, "Cyber Security: Threats and Responses in the Information Age," *Special Report Issue 26* (2009), http://www.aspi.org.au/publications/publication_details.aspx?ContentID=233 accessed 24 Mar 11.

¹⁷⁵ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 14.

Operations Centre (CSOC) serves as a measure to maximize the Australian Government's ability to "prevent, detect and rapidly respond to rapidly evolving cyber exploitation attempts and attacks."¹⁷⁶ The Centre will provide government with a broad understanding of cyber threats against national interests; and, with representatives from Defence and the broader national security community, will coordinate whole-of-government responses to cyber events of national importance across government and critical infrastructure.¹⁷⁷ The CSOC will be the tip of Australia's cyber sword in its fight to maintain freedom of access across the cyberspace domain. As depicted in figure 8, the Center, established in the Defence Signals Directorate, provides Defence with a cyber warfare capability through the conduct of computer network operations, and a resource designed to serve all government agencies. It is important to note that the term "*in*" has been used explicitly in all the government documents to indicate that while the Centre is located inside a Defense establishment, it is not just for the sole use of Defence, but also acts as a whole-of-government resource. The Defence Signals Directorate is an excellent choice of location as it has a long history in information operations, and is a venue well adapted to the classified nature of this style of operations.

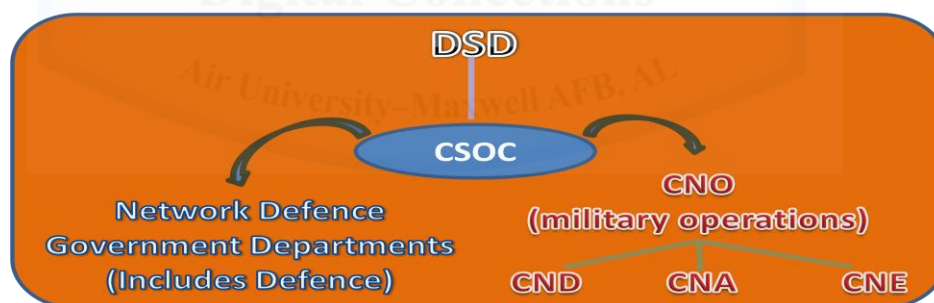


Figure 8: DSD/CSOC Strategic and Operational Cyber Security Responsibilities

Source: Author's Original Work

Defence Signals Directorate. The Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) is the national authority on the security of information systems across government. DSD has a mandate to ensure that sensitive government information systems are not susceptible to unauthorized access, compromise, or disruption.¹⁷⁸ DSD's mission statement, "Reveal

¹⁷⁶ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 28.

¹⁷⁷ Defence Signals Directorate, "Cyber Security Operations Centre (Australia)," ed. Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra, ACT: Attorney General's Department, 2010), 5.

¹⁷⁸ Attorney General, "Cyber Security Strategy (Australia)," 29.

their secrets – Protect our own” reflects the essence of cyber operations, the Clausewitzian duality of offence and defense, required for success in any war.¹⁷⁹ It is a motto that would fit easily into Sun Tzu’s estimates on the waging of war.

Summary

Cyberspace is the primary enabler for Australia’s economic and social well being. It permeates nearly every sinew of the Australian government, the private and public sectors, and underpins the delivery of essential services from critical infrastructure. The efficiencies gained from the exploitation of cyberspace have enabled Australia to continue its journey through the 21st century as a leading nation in technical, trade, financial, and military affairs in the Asian-Pacific region. With every up side there is invariably a down side, and the reliance on cyberspace has made Australia vulnerable to actors who seek to undermine its wealth and security.

The Australian Government considers the greatest existential threat from a direct-armed attack against the mainland, though it acknowledges the risk of this occurring is low. The air-sea gap to Australia’s north provides a formidable barrier to any physical attack, but it offers no more resistance to a cyber attack than a sandcastle to an incoming tide. It is Australian policy to resolve threats to national security, which include attacks or regional instability, by means other than force. However, if required, the Government has demonstrated its will to apply force, as it did in support of East Timor’s 1999 bid for self-determination. The Australian Defence Force is responsible to the Government for the protection of Australia from hostile forces, but as the influence of cyberspace pervades all sectors of life, the responsibility for security is segregated. The Government maintains direct responsibility for the protection of all information under its purview, while all organizations and individuals in the public and private sector, as well as operators and owners of critical infrastructure, bear the responsibility for the security of their cyber-based information systems. Citizens bear the responsibility for protecting themselves from a foreign cyber attack. The Government has taken on the responsibility to provide opportunities for organizations and individuals to be educated on the threat and provide advice on possible actions to mitigate the risk or respond to an attack.

¹⁷⁹ Defence Signals Directorate, "Cyber Security Operations Centre (Australia)," 15.

The Prime Minister's 2008 National Security Statement and the Attorney-General's Cyber Security Strategy map out the future direction for the security of cyberspace. The Cyber Security Strategy, in conjunction with the 2009 Defence White Paper, outlines some key initiatives to advance Australia's readiness to combat threats against government information systems. Alongside an education process, a network of integrated information security systems, and a mandated set of security regulations, a new Cyber Security Operations Centre was established with the prime responsibility for detecting, preventing, and responding to any exploitation attempt or attack on a government information system. The Centre resides in the Defence Signals Directorate, but has representation from all facets of the national security community to facilitate a whole-of-government response to any cyber crisis. If the RAAF wants to play a significant part in forging future cyber capabilities, it needs to grow its cyber representation within the Defense Signals Directorate.

The Cyber Security Operations Centre will play a critical role in the conduct of any cyber operations conducted by Defence. The extent of any cyber attack capabilities resident in Defence are classified, though both the Cyber Security Strategy and Defence White Paper indicate that Australia is undertaking enhancements in cyber warfare. Cyber attack is unlikely to be employed as the sole capability in any military operation, but during the shaping phase of an operation, Defence may employ cyber attack to minimize the logistic footprint in an area of operations, while still undertaking influence operations.

Chapter 4

THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY THROUGH THE CYBER LOOKING GLASS

Cyber security means more than putting up firewalls. It entails a range of actions to ensure the continuance of a state's sovereignty and the freedom to pursue national interests. The Australian Defence Force has the responsibility of providing the security to protect the nation from attacks that threaten the national interests or the continuance of sovereignty. Defensive measures form a large part of the provision of this security. Clausewitz states defense is the strongest form of fighting, but if words give way to actions, offense is the only method that ensures the achievement of national objectives.¹⁸⁰ This argument holds true in the cyber domain where the ADF's focus is on defense, but in the face of a persistent adversary or mass of individual attackers, defense must be balanced with elements of attack if security is to be maintained. The previous chapter asserted that the Australian Government considers the security of cyberspace a shared responsibility with all elements of the Australian population. The public and private sectors, not the ADF, have the responsibility for establishing adequate defensive measures to protect the information systems they own or operate. To these sectors, the Government considers its responsibility to provide advice on potential threats and options to combat these threats; it meets these responsibilities through the provision of the Computer Emergency Response Team and cyber information websites. In the area of critical infrastructure, where delivery of essential services is vital to the maintenance of Australian societal norms, the Government goes a step further in the level of advice by providing close-hold information on threats and protective measures through the Trusted Information Sharing Network. Nonetheless, the primary responsibility for the protection of information lies with the owner and operator of the information system. The same stance holds true with information systems owned and operated by the Department of Defence.

¹⁸⁰ Clausewitz, Howard, and Paret, *On War*, 84.

Policymaking for the protection of Government information falls under the realm of the Attorney-General, but responsibility for conducting operations that meet the policy's aims falls to the Department of Defence. Government information covers the information systems across all federal governmental departments, including Defence. Each department employs information technology officers to oversee compliance with local regulations and federal mandates, but the gatekeeper for the flow of information into and out of the global information grid (GiG) is the Cyber Security Operations Centre, located in the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) in Canberra. The Department of Defence responsibilities in cyber security can be broken into two elements: cyber operations in support of government information systems, and computer network operations in support of military operations. While there is an increasing appreciation of the importance of cyber to ADF operations, the development of cyber capabilities within the ADF lags the growing reliance that combat capabilities have on the cyber domain. Much of the ADF and service cyber activity occurs within the classified realm, so the full extent of the ADF's activities cannot be revealed. The ADF is working hard to play catch-up to protect its capabilities and exploit cyberspace to gain operational advantages. Cyber developments in the Army and Navy closely mirror those of the RAAF and are not addressed within the scope of this paper. However, because cyber permeates across all the warfighting domains, the RAAF must coordinate and integrate its cyber development activities with all services, as well as with the broader Joint and whole-of-government cyber organizations. This chapter looks broadly at the development of cyber operations in the ADF, but as a prelude to developing the future direction for Air Force cyber operations, focuses on the implications of cyber for the RAAF.¹⁸¹

Cyber and the ADF

Cyber operations permeate all the warfighting domains, and because modern warfare levers much of its capacity to engage in operations from cyber, the conduct of military cyber operations should be inherently a joint function. The ADF understands the importance of cyber to its future effectiveness as a fighting force. Through NCW, the

¹⁸¹ Most of the ADF's cyber operations are classified, or in such a developmental stage that is not releasable. Information on ADF cyber operations is predominately drawn from unclassified interviews.

ADF is undertaking a long-term transformation of its entire warfighting system to enable it to fight as a whole rather than individual parts. The ADF's cyber operations are an important enabling function of NCW as the use of networks to provide connectivity between distributed commands, units, and individuals, and the fusion of information that resides within the networks. NCW will align weapons platforms and individuals to share information appropriate to the differing strategic, operational, and tactical missions. However, as established previously, cyber is an enabler for NCW; cyber operations are not NCW. For NCW to develop, the ADF must undertake parallel development of its cyber operations capability. So if the ADF is to exploit cyberspace to maximize its combat effectiveness, which organization holds the responsibility for making this happen, and what role do the services play in this development?

At the departmental level, DSD has the responsibility for conduct of all strategic and much of the operational-level cyber operations. Under the 2001 Telecommunications Intelligence Act, one of DSD's functions is to "provide assistance to Commonwealth and State authorities in relation to cryptography, and communication and computer technologies."¹⁸² Thereby DSD holds the majority of resources and personnel available to the Department of Defence for the conduct of CNO in support of military operations. At the joint level the responsibility for conducting CNO planning and coordination falls under the J-5 Effects cell (J-5E). However, like the majority of the ADF, cyber operations planning at the Joint Operational Command is still in the development phase, and the J-5E cell is drafting a concept of operations that will eventually be the guidance principles for the conduct of joint CNO planning and execution.¹⁸³ The Australian Army and Navy have the responsibility to develop their own cyber operations personnel, but, like the RAAF, will take a number of years to develop cyber operators capable of supporting organic CNO tasking.

¹⁸² Attorney-General, *Intelligence Services Act 2001* (Canberra, ACT: Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing, 2001), 9.

¹⁸³ Karen Jenkins, *Phone Interview with Flight Sergeant Karen Jenkins - CNO Supervisor J-5 Effects Cell JOC - Conducted by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard 3 Apr 11* (Montgomery, AL2011).

The Joint fight.

Who conducts CNO activities for JTF and deployed components? The J-5E will have the responsibility for the planning of all cyber operations within the theater. The JTF and component teams lead these planning, tasking, and component coordination of cyber operations, but in most cases, DSD and the Cyber Security Operations Centre in Canberra will conduct the operations. To enable the reach back to occur, the JTF must be designated the supported unit and the Canberra-based centers as supporting units. Reach back is required because the personnel, infrastructure, and access reside predominately in the Australia-based units. This reach-back concept mirrors the arrangements that occur regularly between US JTFs and USSTRATCOM in the support of strategic ISR and other space-based capabilities. Some elements of CND can and should be deployed forward to establish familiarity with local conditions and to be responsive to the local commander. Some CNA operators may be deployed forward for positive attribution purposes.¹⁸⁴ In an overt conflict, it may be beneficial for adversaries to be aware of who is attacking them and that the attack originated from a regional center. A cyber attack originating within a coalition partner's state can increase the legitimacy of a coalition; thus, a forward deployed CNA team can have both operational and strategic value. The balance of forward-deployed cyber capabilities and those available through reach back will be a source of debate, just as will be the debate over the degree of responsibilities between joint and service cyber operations.

Joint versus Service. Joint command and control of the ADF's cyber operations is the only way to ensure the adequate defense of military information systems and an integrated approach to cyber attack and exploitation. Additionally, the size of the ADF does not lend itself to diffusing its cyber resources across too wide a span of control without diluting the available expertise in any individual unit below what is considered operationally effective. However, the Army, Navy, and Air Force have a legitimate reason to establish some cyber elements within their organizations. For starters, the ADF does not have a separate cyber force that can produce joint cyber warriors, and with the constrained size of the ADF, it is not considered feasible for a separate cyber service to be

¹⁸⁴ Raph Brown, *Interview with Wing Commander Ralph Brown -RAF Communications Engineer UK MoD Desk Officer for CNO Policy R&D and Operational Planning from 2007-08 - by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard Conducted 29 Mar 11*, (Montgomery, AL2011).

established. Thus, the ADF has two choices; designate one service to raise, train, and sustain cyber operators for employment in the joint cyber community, or task their services with the responsibility to grow cyber operators within their own organizations. The first option may seem efficient, but is not likely to proceed due to a combination of service advocacy and a lack of experience within the single services to support each component's targeting requirements. This leaves the second option, which is closer to the modern concept of joint organizations. Each service grows its own cyber specialists, nurturing them in their individual service-minded culture, so they can support individual-service and greater joint needs.

UK, Canada, Australia, and US military Cyber Development

Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom (UK) share much common ground in the development of cyber operations. The three nations' Cyber Security Strategy concepts closely mirror each other organizationally and in process, with the opening of CSOC and CERT or equivalent centers in each country.¹⁸⁵ Oversight and organizational arrangements differ with different national political environments, size of military, and historical force structure, but share best practice processes. At the military level, each country is still in the early stages of cyber-operations development. Certain elements of cyber operations are available to support military actions, details of which are classified. However, there is a long process of concept-of-operations development, organization restructuring, and growth of cyber operators at the service and joint levels still to be conducted by each nation if the potential of cyberspace is to be fully exploited.

US Cyber Command. The US is far more advanced in the exploitation of cyberspace than any of its closest allies. US Cyber Command stood up in 2009 and reached initial operational capability in 2010. Per its mission statement, "USCYBERCOM plans, coordinates, integrates, synchronizes, and conducts activities to: direct the operations and defense of specified Department of Defense information networks and; prepare to, and when directed, conduct full-spectrum military cyberspace operations in order to enable actions in all domains, ensure US/Allied freedom of action in

¹⁸⁵ UK Office of Cyber Security, "Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom," (London, UK: Office of Public Sector Information, 2009). Minister of Public Safety, "Canada's Cyber Security Strategy for a Stronger and More Prosperous Canada," (Quebec, Canada: Ministry of Public Safety, 2010).

cyberspace and deny the same to our adversaries.”¹⁸⁶ Each service has a cyber command subordinate to USCYBERCOM; Army Forces Cyber Command (ARFORCYBER); 24th AF (AFCYBER); Fleet Cyber Command (FLTCYBERCOM); and Marine Forces Cyber Command (MARFORCYBER). While there may be some tactical lessons that could be drawn from the development of US cyber operation, the scale of USCYBERCOM and its subordinate elements limits drawing any useful comparison that would enable the development of effective organization for the RAAF or ADF. Australia will continue to leverage the developments in US capabilities to grow ADF’s cyber operations, and in the ADF’s long tradition of growing military bonds across all the warfighting domains, Australia will do its share in the conduct of coalition cyber operations.

Cyber Operations and the RAAF

RAAF cyber objectives. Each service has unique cyber requirements that reflect its style of operations and targets within its primary warfighting domain. While no specific cyber objectives have been yet published, to establish and maintain its capabilities in the air domain, the RAAF needs the following four cyber-related objectives met. First, joint or service conduct of defensive cyber operations to ensure the protection of RAAF capabilities from disruption, corruption, or destruction due to cyber attacks. Second, the performance of cyber attacks in direct support for the air component missions. Third, a continuance of cyber support activities, such as mission planning, intelligence, and weaponeering, that are essential to the delivery of modern air power. Finally, the conduct of cyber exploitation that provides the air component commander with information that enables relative superiority in the decision-making process.

Can the RAAF gain cyber superiority? A better question may be whether anybody can gain cyber superiority. The USAF states that superiority “prevents effective interference, which does not mean that no interference exists, but that any attempted interference can be countered or should be so negligible as to have little or no effect on operations.”¹⁸⁷ Superiority in cyberspace is therefore a relative term and should not be considered as an absolute; as cyberspace, more so than the other warfighting domains, is not conducive to absolute control by one party. The USAF states in its Cyber Command

¹⁸⁶ US Cyber Command, "Uscybercom Fact Sheet," (2010), http://www.stratcom.mil/factsheets/Cyber_Command/ accessed 3 Apr 11.

¹⁸⁷ United States. Dept. of the Air, *Afdd 3-12: Cyberspace Operations*, 2.

Strategic Vision that it aspires to control cyberspace, but only a sufficient level of control as to obtain local or time-limited cyber advantage for the conduct of a mission.¹⁸⁸ Even to gain relative superiority will take a concerted joint effort by ADF cyber operations. By itself, the RAAF should not expect to gain cyber superiority; however, in a mature joint cyber organization the air component should expect to gain decision-making advantages through the disruption, corruption, or exploitation of some elements of an adversary's information systems through support from the Joint Task Force cyber cell.

Air-mindedness

Any cyber operator can employ similar types of cyber weapons, regardless of service. The determining factor is how that weapon is employed, the type of information system, and how that weapon needs to be optimized to support a desired effect in the air domain. Here lies the difference between cyber warriors and kinetic troops. The kinetic soldier, sailor, and airman use platforms and weapons optimized for the domain. Cyber warriors across all services can use the same type of cyber weapon, but for different purposes, against different targets, and supporting different objectives. This is analogous to cyber warriors all being capable of using a cyber JDAM, but using it in different ways for different means; a one-style kinetic weapon for all services would not work due to the differing environments. It is not the weapon that differentiates a cyber operator among services, but the operator's approach to targeting, support, and execution of the weapon.

Objectives. Understanding the objectives and the target environment is critical to gaining the access required to undertake CNA/CNE. The complexity is in the understanding of the environment within which the information system will be accessed, and then appreciating the effect sought. At code level, a target may appear the same as any other information system; this would be analogous to looking at a circuit board with a magnifying glass--all circuit boards will look similar. Only when the view is broadened, and all the electronics are viewed, can a device be fully understood. This is where the service-level influence comes into play. CNO experts have similar skill sets, but it is the service-oriented experience that allows different perspectives on how to approach a

¹⁸⁸ United States Air Force Cyber Command, *Air Force Cyber Command Strategic Vision* (United States: Air Force Cyber Command, 2008), 4.

problem. If an integrated air defense system is selected for a cyber attack, the air-minded cyber expert has the experience to appreciate which components to attack to achieve the desired effects.¹⁸⁹ An army cyber unit may have the skill sets to conduct a cyber attack but not the individual or collective experience to conduct precision cyber attack on the IADS to gain the required effects. The same argument holds true for an air force cyber team not having the experience or corporate knowledge to cyber-attack a maritime target.

There is a difference between understanding the technology and the vulnerabilities peculiar to the air domain. Cyber technicians in the ADF can be trained with the basic skills to understand the properties of the cyberspace networks common to all services, and at the face level, a cyber technician from any service could provide the baseline defensive needs of a network. The challenge emerges as each service seeks to adapt its networks to meet the needs peculiar to its operating environment. An air force cyber technician has a deeper appreciation of the cyber requirements of its service and therefore can adapt basic skill sets to meet the air force requirements. This does not mean that all air force cyber technicians need to work under the umbrella of a RAAF unit; indeed having RAAF cyber staff embedded in a Joint cyber unit creates excellent synergetic opportunities. However, to gain the core skill that endows them with an air-minded perspective, the air force needs a cyber squadron in which to raise-train-and sustain these personnel.

Differing perspectives. In the kinetic world, a desired effect may be generated by force application from different warfighting domains. For example, the JFC wants to stop the transmission of cyber attack emanating from an adversary's command-and-control headquarters. The land component may advocate a direct attack on the headquarters and physically occupy the premises. Special Forces may offer a combat team to infiltrate the headquarters with the intent to either disrupt or destroy the transmitters, or conversely, convince the local cyber technicians to terminate their activities. Maritime forces may suggest a cruise missile attack to destroy the transmitter. Air could conduct aerial jamming or anti-radiation missile attacks, or destroy the headquarters with bombs. Each of these approaches can result in the same effect, but each uses a distinctive methodology, different avenues of attack, and differing second and third-degree consequences.

¹⁸⁹ Duncan Scott, *Phone Interview with Squadron Leader Duncan Scott - Executive Officer 462 Squadron, RAAF Information Operations Squadron - by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard - Conducted 3 Apr 11, (Montgomery AL 2011).*

Similarly, cyber operators from the various services may approach the problem from their service perspectives, conducting cyber attacks at different access approaches or even other areas of the information system. Equally, the kinetic service attacks may seek role-specific cyber support to accomplish its mission.

Target Development

Targeting. Because an adversary's software or hardware is upgradable at any time, causing loss of access to an information system or vulnerability to be resolved, cyber targeting must be very dynamic. In cyber attack, access is critical to success.

Understanding the target type and the required effects can determine the avenue for access and options available to the attacker in the event one access option closes. Experience in one domain translates to effectiveness in the cyber domain. An air-minded cyber warrior brings options to the targeting and planning process that an army or maritime-focused cyber troop may not.

Cyber collateral-damage assessment. Because cyber attack is still relatively new, the rules for collateral-damage assessment for cyber operations are still maturing. In the kinetic world, the key unit of measure for collateral damage is death or injury to the civilian population. Given the long history the Air Force has with kinetic operations, and with improvements in technology and weapon-effects measurements, the physical consequences of bombs or missiles are well known. Normally the most challenging portion of kinetic collateral damage calculations is establishing the number of civil population in the vicinity of the target. The level of acceptable collateral damage will determine whether the mission will proceed. In cyber attacks, there is a very low risk of direct loss of life; however, not only are immediate consequences of the attack considered in the collateral damage calculations, but also the second and third-level effects. An example would be a RAAF airstrike on a telephone exchange. The measured collateral damage calculation would be the possible number of civilians killed or injured by the bomb. A cyber attack on the same exchange would consider not only the immediate effects of losing telephone services, but which services would be disrupted and the follow-on consequences (e.g. 911 calls may be disrupted, affecting emergency response). The

RAAF needs to consider kinetic and cyber collateral damage from the same perspective, just with different methodology to achieve the same effects.

Cyber weaponeers. RAAF cyber weaponeers will have an understanding of not only the desired effects on the targeted information system, but also of potential second and third-order effects on associated systems. Given the character of cyber and its ability to pervade other domains, it is important for the air component cyber operators to have the organizational arrangements to synchronize their actions with the other components to build on the situational awareness of the cyber battlespace. Cyber actions by one component can have “flow-on” effects to those of other components; just as kinetic air operations can affect a kinetic or non-kinetic land operation. An example of this in kinetic operations is the targeting of a bridge used as a main route for the adversary’s logistic support. The Air Force destroys the bridge, disrupting the supply. A parallel land operation sought to gain intelligence from local villagers, but the destruction of the bridge cut off access to their farms; not only did the intelligence dry up, but animosity towards friendly troops grew. Cyber operations would not be immune to this type of operational miscommunication. A cyber attack on a communications hub may cut off transmission between C2 sites, but that same communications hub could have been used by the land cyber force as the means of psychological operations to inform the locals of the corruption endemic in the government and as incitement to rise up against the regime. Air-minded cyber operators might possibly understand the range of potential effects from their operations much better than cyber operators of the other services. The RAAF must grow its cyber force so the appropriate level of air-mindedness can be provided to cyber target development, planning, and operational assessment in support of the air component commander.¹⁹⁰ All the cyber elements of the Joint Air Tasking Cycle must be supported by air-minded cyber operators. Bringing in someone from a joint pool of cyber operators to support the air component commander’s objectives would equate to having an army ATACMS officer conducting the weaponeering for an airstrike just because he knows how to plan a precision land strike.

Collection planning – As with the target development, air force cyber operators provide the air component collection requirements, based on the JFACC’s operational

¹⁹⁰ Scott, *Interview with Squadron Leader Duncan Scott by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard*.

objectives, the air center of gravity, and the decisive points outlined in the JOPPA.¹⁹¹ While the operational objectives will directly support the JFC's objectives, access analysis, target development, and operational-effect assessment require an air-mindedness approach provided by the service-component RTS process.

Cyber weapon payloads can be developed through the Joint organization, and likely will occur through reach back to the Australian, or coalition, organization with the designated authority and expertise. However, payload requirements will require direction from subject matter experts with the understanding of the operational objectives, integration requirements, collateral-damage rules of engagement, and desired mission effects. These come from the OPT within the requesting headquarters and therefore require component subject matter expertise.

Red teams. Red teams are actors who seek to replicate the actions of a potential adversary and conduct these actions against friendly forces during an exercise or wargame. Red teams allow friendly forces to test their capabilities or plans in order to discover weaknesses or deficiencies in a course of action, tactics, or level of competence. The results of a red team interaction allow the rectification of gaps in planning or capability before exposing forces to a real adversary. Organizations that seek to appreciate fully any potential vulnerability, use the best players in a particular field to fill the red team, as it should be assumed the enemy would use its best forces in any conflict. The cyber world is no different. The ADF and the RAAF needs to develop red teams that seek out weakness in the ADF information systems and exploit them during exercises.¹⁹² Red team cyber operations can be conducted from the joint level, where individual service cells will enable a focused appreciation of where to focus an attack based on its service-minded perceptions of potential vulnerabilities. RAAF cyber experts understand what the air component values and needs to conduct air operations. A generically trained cyber operator will lack such an appreciation and not understand where to target or what to defend from a RAAF counter-attack.

¹⁹¹ United States. Joint Chiefs of Staff., *Joint Publication 3-30: Command and Control for Joint Air Operations*, Joint Publication; 3-30 (Washington, DC: Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2010), III-22.

¹⁹² Scott, *Interview with Squadron Leader Duncan Scott by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard*.

RAAF Cyber Operations and Information Warfare

Information Warfare at the service level should not include Computer Network Operations in a mature cyber-operations-enabled Air Force.¹⁹³ It is a joint function better conducted at the joint/whole-of-government level to support service needs. Service groups should raise, train, and sustain cyber-trained personnel to staff the Joint Cyber Centre (run under the Joint Operations Command with reach back to the Defence Signals Directorate), deployable Computer Network Operations cells for Joint Task Forces, and Computer Network Operations within component Operation centers. Each component's cyber operation cells should be integrated into all levels of the component planning organization, not just a coordinate or liaison cell.¹⁹⁴

462 Squadron. The RAAF's Information Operations Squadron, 462 Squadron, has the responsibility for the same elements of tactical Computer Network Operations, with its cyber operations focus mainly on information assurance.¹⁹⁵ RAAF cyber-operations are in the developmental phase with a number of projects underway to expand its understanding of how cyber influences Australian air power and provide direction on how best to expand the Air Force's cyber operations. The direction the RAAF will develop its future concepts for cyber operations will depend in part on the Commander Joint Operations Command published intent, which is due by the end of 2011, and the subsequent joint concept of operations for the conduct of Computer Network Operations in support of ADF operations. The level of joint versus service cyber operational capabilities is a subject that is sure to be hotly debated long after the release of the Commander's intent.

RAAF Vulnerabilities

To produce its combat effectiveness, the Air Force leverages technology more than any of the other services. Carl Builder describes this phenomenon as worshipping at the altar of technology.¹⁹⁶ Current and emerging military aviation technologies are increasingly reliant on cyberspace to produce combat effectiveness. Thus, the RAAF has

¹⁹³ Scott, *Interview with Squadron Leader Duncan Scott by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard*.

¹⁹⁴ Mesic, *Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional) Decision Support* 11.

¹⁹⁵ Scott, *Interview with Squadron Leader Duncan Scott by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard*.

¹⁹⁶ Builder, *The Masks of War*, 19.

a significant interest in securing the cyberspace that underpins its combat capabilities. It will be very difficult to be swift, decisive, resilient, and respected if aircraft are grounded or capabilities severely limited due to a lack of access to cyberspace.¹⁹⁷ In cyber terms, the air force has numerous vulnerabilities from a cyber attack that can ground aircraft or reduce their combat effectiveness, which do not involve direct cyber attacks on aircraft. The list of potential RAAF vulnerabilities is long and includes areas such as: sensor fusion and data dissemination for air defence systems; data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination support for ISR; pre and post-flight cyber support capabilities for aircraft; synchronization of navigation and weapons; communication infrastructure for data links, satellite communications, phone landlines, video conferencing, secure radios, and the DRN/DSN/DTSN networks; acquisition modeling and processing databases; and computer support activities for research and development activities. For the near future, airborne aircraft are unlikely targets for a cyber attack, but as B. H. Liddell Hart posits, the indirect approach can be more effective. The following examples of indirect attacks via logistics, maintenance, air defense systems, rules of engagement, and even on the F-35 provide an insight into just some of the vulnerabilities the RAAF must address if it is to continue to rely on cyber as the nerve system for its combat capabilities.

Logistics. Whether domestically or in theater, the majority of logistic supply occurs through civil contractors, and almost all contractors conduct business over the internet. Disruption or denial of internet services can turn off the supply of fuel, spares, or rations to an airbase. Most logistic systems, including those in the RAAF, use radio frequency identification devices (RFID) to manifest and track items between the supplier and the consignee. These devices and the information systems that support them are enabled by private-sector organizations that use cyberspace defended by public-sourced protection software. An adversary could attack the software and corrupt it to disrupt the logistic system, or devise a macro that reroutes all the RAAF's items to random locations and hides the true locations from the contractor. There may also be a perception that local storage may reduce this risk, but during high-intensity operations, base storage facilities are unlikely to keep up with demands. During Operation Desert Storm, a number of

¹⁹⁷ The RAAF vision statement is “*One team - swift, decisive, resilient and respected*”

Middle Eastern bases required a fuel truck to enter the base every five minutes, 24 hours a day, to keep up with demand.¹⁹⁸ A cyber attack on any part of the civil fuel supply chain could significantly reduce the RAAF ability to conduct air operations.

Maintenance. An adversary seeking to shape the longer-term operational environment could seek to conduct cyber attacks against maintenance operations. The conduct of aircraft maintenance may be vested in RAAF personnel, but the equipment is supplied and serviced by civilian contractors. An adversary could access the relatively unprotected civil information system and manipulate data to cause equipment to be incorrectly calibrated while seeming correct; just as occurred in the 2010 Iranian Stuxnet worm attack. Imagine the effects on F/A-18's performance if the engine thrust appears normal but calibrated low. This may be picked up on the flight line, but the time and effort spent correcting the issue may not be available during a crisis period. Conversely, adversaries can inject viruses into the test equipment that transfer into the aircraft operating systems. These viruses can disrupt the aircraft systems in flight, or they could be a Trojan-horse-style "malware" transferring sensitive information back to the adversary whenever the test equipment is hooked back up to the aircraft or sent back to the contractor for servicing. In addition, maintenance documents are increasingly generated in softcopy only. Cyber attacks could corrupt the online manuals or deny the maintainers access to the documents altogether; again significantly influencing the combat effectiveness of air operations.

Air Defense. The RAAF values the geographic divide between the Australian northern coastline and countries in South East Asia as a sufficient buffer to allow an aerial response in the event of an attack. Its prime means of detecting an incoming air attack is an air defense system of radars and other detection options. However, as the former Special Advisor to the U.S. President on cybersecurity Richard Clarke highlighted, billions of dollars of air defense systems can be made mute by a cyber operation. During Israel's 2008 attack on a suspected Syrian nuclear facility, attacking Israeli aircraft did not appear on the Syrian radars. Though there were formations of aircraft over Syria, no air defense missile was fired, as there were no targets visible on the radar screens to fire at. For the duration of the operation, Israel "owned" the Syrian air defense system, courtesy

¹⁹⁸ Author's experience during Operation Desert Storm deployments

of a well-organized cyber operation.¹⁹⁹ Like most modern militaries, the RAAF takes measures to defend its air defense system against cyber attack; however, the lessons from Syria are a stark warning to the consequences of a lapse in CND.

Rules of engagement. The RAAF follows rules of engagement in determining whether a mission can proceed or for a particular weapon authorized for release. A number of these rules are formulated on the collateral-damage assessment for the type of target, the type of weapon, release parameters, and identification methods. Behind much of collateral-damage assessment is the fusion of several categories of information, such as intelligence, aircraft weapon characteristics, legal positions, and local conditions. In the assessment process, the majority of this information is stored and processed across cyberspace.²⁰⁰ A disruption or corruption of any of this data can inhibit the conduct of a mission; even though an aircraft could be overhead the target awaiting clearance. If adversaries can disrupt the collateral-damage assessment process, they can adversely affect the conduct of a mission without even cyber-attacking the aircraft.

F-35 is not immune. The RAAF's next generation fighter, the F-35, will form Australia's foundation for air defense and strike until well beyond 2040. It is truly a wired platform, which enables it to use on-board systems to their maximum effectiveness and integrate off-platform data to generate its aerial superiority. However, does this reliance on networks create vulnerabilities an adversary can exploit? Absolutely, if the RAAF does not develop a cyber force. Central to its maintenance system is the Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS).²⁰¹ This system enables reports on the status of the F-35's equipment to be automatically transmitted to ground-maintenance units so parts are pre-positioned and maintainers are organized to fix the jet by the time it returns to base. This process can significantly reduce aircraft downtime, allowing rapid turnaround in combat readiness. However, what if an adversary gains cyber access to this system to manipulate the data to read differently from what the on-board problem is. Unservicibilities would be overlooked, and worse, incorrect actions could delay the

¹⁹⁹ Clarke and Knake, *Cyber War*, 5.

²⁰⁰ Owens, Dam, and Lin, *Technology, Policy, Law, and Ethics Regarding U.S. Acquisition and Use of Cyberattack Capabilities*, 51.

²⁰¹ Defence Industry Daily, "You Can Track Your F-35s, Via at Alis' Maintenance Hub." (Defence Industry Daily, 2007), <http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/you-can-track-your-f-35s-at-alis-maintenance-hub-04368/> accessed 31 Mar 11.

platform's return to combat status. A simple over-G error code, inserted into the ALIS, can force days of un-required corrective maintenance. This is another example of an indirect cyber attack impacting the operational effectiveness of the RAAF combat fleet.

Summary

The Australian Defence Force, like all modern militaries, appreciates that its combat capabilities, its support infrastructure, and nearly every enabling function inexorably rely on cyberspace in some manner or another for their operational characteristics. Cyber is part of the Australian military, and it is here to stay, but whether the military is ready to protect itself from cyber predators, maintain freedom of action within cyberspace, or fully exploit an adversary's cyber vulnerabilities is another thing altogether. The move within the ADF to transform from a series of capable but fragmented, combat elements into a force fighting off a focused and networked joint operational awareness, through the adaption of Network Centric Warfare, is long anticipated but increases the reliance on cyberspace. The ADF and a number of its allied military partners are closer to developing a mature cyber organization capable of securing its home-based information systems than it is to establishing a joint cyber organization or advancing cyber capabilities within the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

As the service that embraces technology more than any other, the Air Force needs to understand the benefits and limitations inherent in cyber operations. Similar to having air superiority as its core combat goal, so too is it seeking to achieve some element of cyber superiority to enable a combat edge over its adversaries in the air and in the decision-making loop. Because cyberspace permeates all warfighting domains, the command and control of cyber operations need to be joint-focused and joint-led. This does not mean that the RAAF does not have a significant cyber role; in fact, it must build its cyber-trained forces so that the air component has personnel who understand the air perspective when conducting cyber operation; in short, they must be air-minded. Cyber weaponeers developing cyber target packages in support of the air component objectives need an understanding of the essential air elements of any target, and how to focus cyber operations to maximize the air combat capability. Ground and maritime cyber operators will not have the insight required to adequately support an air mission, just as a cyber

airmen do not have the experience to know the vulnerabilities of naval capabilities or the specifics of maritime vulnerabilities.²⁰²

Just as there are numerous opportunities within the cyber realm for the RAAF to develop operational advantages, there are at least as many weaknesses within cyberspace that can turn into vulnerabilities if the ADF and the RAAF fail to develop a robust cyber force. Many of the potential vulnerabilities in areas such as logistics, maintenance, mission support, and command and control do not directly stop aircraft from flying; they do not change physics, but unlike its forefathers, the RAAF relies on more than physics to deliver air power.

To support the defense of Australia through air power, the RAAF needs a broad appreciation of the elements that shape its combat capabilities, and cyber is emerging as one of those core elements. This level of appreciation develops through cognizance of the national strategic security environment and the guidance provided from the national level in the form of the National Security Statement, National Cyber Strategy, and the Defence White Paper. In combination with this guidance there needs to be an understanding of command and control in cyberspace and a sense of the complexity of cyber operations. Only after threading all these elements together can a direction for the RAAF's future in cyber operations develop.

²⁰² The term *airmen* is a commonly used term to refer to all aviators and is not considered gender-specific in the same regard mankind refers to all humans not just males. The terms *airman* and *airmen* in the RAAF equate to enlisted personnel in USAF.

Chapter 5

THE RAAF AND CYBERSPACE

*"New conditions require for solution, and new weapons require, for maximum application— new and imaginative methods. Wars are never won in the past."*²⁰³

-General Douglas MacArthur

In a perfect world, there would be no requirement for Computer Network Operations, because in such a Utopia, there also would be no conflict. However, there is no Utopia, and in this real world, the RAAF comes under cyber attack dozens of times a day.²⁰⁴ Cyber attacks threaten the conduct of air force activities, and in future conflicts cyber operations will play a significant role. If the RAAF is to deliver on its responsibility of providing air power in the defense of Australia, it needs to adapt to each new condition it faces. Cyber is one of the most influential conditions the RAAF will face in this decade and into the next. To meet the challenges and opportunities of the cyber domain, new software-based weapons are necessary, innovative approaches to protect information systems are vital, and new means to exploit an adversary's decision cycle are required. Developing a cyber force is not just a good idea, it is an essential task.

The needs of a cyber force mirror other air power elements in many ways; they embrace equipment, structure, and people. The core elements required to support a RAAF cyber force are; access to equipment or cyber capabilities; an organizational structure that supports RAAF, Joint, and whole-of-government cyber activities; and people with the training and air-minded attitude for cyber. However, like the development of any new capability, to grow and sustain a cyber force will be neither easy nor cheap, and require the support of the RAAF and ADF executive.

²⁰³ General Douglas MacArthur, "General Headquarters, South-West Pacific Area of Operations, Press Release, 21 Sep 43," (1943), <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/RptsMacA/I/RptsI-5.html> accessed 23 Apr 11.

²⁰⁴ Cameron Stewart, "Hackers Make a Mockery of Government Security " News.com.au, <http://www.news.com.au/technology/hackers-make-a-mockery-of-government-security/story-e6frfro0-1225980765432> accessed 13 Apr 11.

Budget pressure. Growing a new capability will be a challenge, particularly given the Strategic Reform Program and the fiscal constraints placed on all Government agencies. However, if the combat capabilities that underpin Australian air power are to be sustained, and opportunities available within cyberspace exploited, then the ADF and the RAAF must elevate the priority of the development of a cyber force. Fiscal pressure may tempt RAAF capability development to establish a cyber force as an add-on capability to an existing unit, however, this would be like trying to place an F-35 flight under a C-130 squadron; the capabilities have certain synergies, but they perform different functions that require specialist organizations to develop these functions. That said, the argument to raise a new force is not always an easy sell to those who control the budget. Nevertheless, the argument is clear and the risk identified by the former prime minister in the 2008 National Security Statement. The RAAF needs a cyber force to maintain access to its information systems and exploit an adversary's use of cyberspace to establish decision superiority. Either additional or reallocated funding is required if the RAAF is to deliver air power in a cyber world. What will the money be spent on? That is easy: equipment, organization, and people.

Equipment

Unlike many other RAAF capabilities, equipment for a future RAAF cyber force is likely to be the lowest capital outlay. While there will be a requirement for computers, routers, training devices, deployable cyber capabilities, and an experimentation laboratory, the financial outlay for this equipment is low in comparison to the cost of aircraft or combat enablers such as over-the-horizon radar. In what is almost a first for the RAAF, the bulk of equipment for a core capability will reside outside of its organization. The Defence Signal Directorate will be the central repository for the majority of the cyber equipment that will perform cyber operations. The RAAF cyber force will reach back to elements within Defence Signal Directorate to conduct the Computer Network Operations activities required for service functions or in support of joint operations. There will be a requirement to acquire equipment to support a deployed Computer Network Operations capability, as connectivity with the Defence Signal Directorate can never be fully guaranteed during a crisis. But cyber operations are very equipment-centric, and computer equipment becomes redundant very quickly, so the cost of maintaining advantages in

cyberspace will require frequent upgrades to equipment at a rate far greater than the mainstream RAAF.²⁰⁵ Despite leveraging off the Defence Signal Directorate's cyber equipment, RAAF capability development planners must plan for the relatively high costs associated with the acquisition and then ongoing cost of maintain leading-edge computer equipment.

Organization

After equipment, the most common focus in the development of a new capability is the organizational structure. Does the capability need a separate squadron? To which Wing or Group will it belong? What will be the chain of command and liaison? All are fair questions, but the most important question that needs to be addressed when developing a new force is: "whom does the capability support?" Second to this question is: "from what similar capabilities may we draw synergies?" From these questions the answers to most other questions flow. The primary customer is the RAAF. This may seem obvious and simplistic, but it is essential to clearly establish this fact because the primary customer sets the goals for the force and the boundaries of its operations. Cyber operations are inherently joint, but joint operations require the services to provide domain-related capabilities. Thus, the RAAF cyber force will operate in the joint environment to provide air-minded cyber expertise to the joint fight. It is the role of the RAAF to raise, train, and sustain air power for the defense of Australia, thus all elements of air power are developed and maintained in accordance with the RAAF's goals and objectives. These goals and objectives are devolved from tasks and guidance delivered from the Commander of the ADF and the Commander of the Joint Operations Command. The RAAF cyber force will support operational and exercise deployments of air power-related cyber capabilities, while being the lead Air Force agency on all raise-train-and-sustain cyber issues.

Non-governmental sectors. As discussed in chapter 3, cyber support to the public and private sectors, along with critical infrastructure, falls under the responsibility of the Attorney-General. Through the Computer Emergency Response Team and the Trusted

²⁰⁵ Adam Brate, *Technomanifestos: Visions from the Information Revolutionaries* (New York, NY: Texere, 2002). 321. In 1965, Intel co-founder Gordon Moore predicated computer processing power would double every two years, which was later revised to 18 months. This predication has held true and is expected to continue throughout this decade.

Information Sharing Network, cyber activities are conducted to facilitate individual, corporate, and owner/operators of information systems security against cyber threats, and provide support in the event of a cyber attack, as indicated in figure 9. During periods of cyber activity, these groups are likely to turn to the Cyber Security Operations Center (CSOC) for advice and action.²⁰⁶ Through members currently posted to the Defence Signals Directorate, the RAAF has representation in the CSOC.

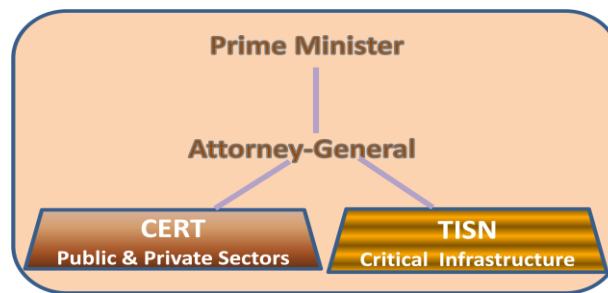


Figure 9: Attorney-General Responsibility for Non-governmental Sectors

Source: Author's Original Work

RAAF Computer Network Operations. To ensure the RAAF's cyber-enabled capabilities continue to deliver air power when required, the RAAF will need to conduct all elements of Computer Network Operations, or have these functions conducted on its behalf. That said, the RAAF has only minimal organic Computer Network Operations capability, thus the responsibility for the conduct of these activates falls to the Defence Signals Directorate. At present, the Directorate has the responsibility to conduct cyber operations to support all governmental departments, including the ADF. While it has been acknowledged through media releases that the Directorate has the responsibility for the defense of government information networks, the majority of work within the Directorate is classified.²⁰⁷ However, ministerial-level speeches provide sufficient evidence that the Directorate conducts some form of Computer Network Operations to support military activities.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁶ Defence Signals Directorate, "The Cyber Security Operations Centre," Defence Signals Directorate, <http://www.dsd.gov.au/infosec/csoc.html> accessed 13 Apr 11.

²⁰⁷ Attorney-General Robert McClelland, "Australian Cyber Security Strategy Launched," Attorney-General Department, http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2009_FourthQuarter_23November2009-AustralianCyberSecurityStrategyLaunched?open&query=CSOC accessed 13 Apr 11.

²⁰⁸ John Faulkner, "Opening of Cyber Operations Centre," Department of the Minister for Defence <http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/FaulknerSpeech.html?CurrentId=9883> accessed and

RAAF and the ADF Joint cyber organization. In current and future ADF operations, the Joint Operations Command, Joint Task Force, or component headquarters will exercise command and control. The land, maritime, and air components will work to support the JTF objectives, with activities tasked through component headquarters. So if the air component seeks to exploit airspace, the maritime component seeks superiority in the seascape, and the ground component looks to dominate terra firma, then which component will have the lead in the cyber domain? The answer is, it depends. Each component will want their information systems defended to ensure domain-specific capabilities that rely on cyber for combat advantage, or even basic functionality, to remain undisrupted. Equally, components will seek to attack their adversaries within their domain to maximize combat advantage, while pursuing cyber exploitation to provide awareness of the opponent's disposition, capabilities, and intelligence. The RAAF's cyber requirements will differ from land, as much as both will differ from maritime. However, in the Australian context, components will not possess the combat capabilities to conduct the full range of cyber operations.

Reach back. Cyber task requests will flow through to the Joint Task Force headquarters, which will synchronize, integrate, and prioritize all tasks. However, similar to the components, the Joint Task Force and Joint Operations Command headquarters will not have the capability to perform the cyber operation. All task requests for Computer Network Operations will be channeled through to the Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC). The Centre will be tasked in support of the Joint Task Force and perform the required element of the Computer Network Operation. In many ways this arrangement is similar to the conduct of space operations. Neither the Joint Task Force, Joint Operations Command, nor components have space capabilities, but they all seek to use the space domain to enhance or enable their domain-centric capabilities. Reach back is common practice in space; the concept needs to be transferred to cyber operations.

Deployed CNO capability. The concept of reach back revolves around the ability to maintain communications links, and in the fog and friction of conflict, maintaining uninterrupted or uncorrupted communications cannot be guaranteed. The irony of using

<http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/FaulknerTranscripttpl.cfm?CurrentId=9885> accessed 13 apr 11; Faulkner, "Opening of Cyber Operations Centre."

reach back to conduct cyber operations is that much of the communication medium relies on cyberspace for its functionality. Thus in a conflict, where cyber is a factor, the Joint Task Force and the components must have local capability to conduct some level of Computer Network Operations. Each deployed location will require a Computer Network Defense capability, with the Joint Task Force maintaining Computer Network Attack and Exploitation functionality. These capabilities will be tactical in nature, looking to maintain the integrity of the local information systems for a limited period of time. As part of its raise-train-and-sustain requirement, the RAAF should develop a tactical Computer Network Operations capability for deployment to forward basing and the Air Operations Centre (AOC). So if most of the cyber operations are to be performed at the CSOC, what will be the major role of RAAF cyber elements?

Cyber operational planning team. The RAAF needs to position air-minded cyber specialists at air component headquarters across each level of the warfighting spectrum, and into the domestic support headquarters and centers where cyber planning is conducted. Representation, in the form of cyber operational planning teams (COPT), will provide an air perspective to the planning of any cyber activity. The size of a COPT would depend on the nature of the task and should be tailored to the scale of the operation. Ideally, the COPT would consist of specialists in each element of computer network operations, familiar with the joint planning and tasking process, capable of liaising with the COPTs of other components and at the Joint Task Force level, and experience in the cyber support requirements of the particular air-power capabilities employed in the campaign.

Air Operations Center. At the Air Operations Center, the COPT would form part of the planning teams within the strategy division, combat plans division, and combat operations division. COPT personnel will not be a separate team that attends meetings to receive instructions or provide advice; they would be integrated into planning cells in each division. The designation of the COPT as a team indicates they coordinate their planning across all divisions, but they work for the division bosses. They are as essential to the planning process as the weaponeers. If properly integrated, members of the COPT could make cyber more than a force-enabler; they could make cyber a force-multiplier. If this team is not employed, and cyber is treated as an add-on, at best air power may lose some

of its combat effectiveness--at worst an adversary could gain cyber advantage and decision superiority.

To gain advantage in cyberspace will require somewhat of a shift in planning mentality. Normally, specialists turn up at an operation familiar with every detail of the weapons they include in their master attack plans. COPT specialists arrive with an idea of the type of weapons available, but in many cases the weapon may have to be designed to the specific target information system. Because of this need to design on the fly, the timeline between target selection and payload insertion may not line up with the air tasking cycle. It is because of these factors that the RAAF needs an air-minded cyber component. A RAAF cyber specialist will understand the types of targets the air component will focus on, the information systems these targets possess, and how a cyber operation could assist the air mission. Additionally, the air-minded cyber specialists would be comfortable with the cyber capabilities required to support the air component combat functions. They would be best placed to advise on the most appropriate means to protect these capabilities from cyber attack or exploitation, or possibly provide advice on how to enhance some of the cyber-enabling capabilities.

Planning starts early. Just as planning for the kinetic and information aspects of a campaign begins well in advance of an operation (at least that is the hope) so too must cyber planning. As time is required to develop a Joint Prioritized Integrated Target List for the kinetic operations of a campaign, so too will the COPT require time to develop a cyber plan to support the targets on the list, or develop separate cyber targets in support of air-component commander requirements. If the RAAF wishes to exploit certain elements of adversaries' information systems, then lead time is required for the COPT to put together target profiles, develop cyber weapons, and possibly deliver cyber weapons onto target systems ahead of the operation. Delivery may require assistance from physical assets or could be conducted remotely; either way preparation time will be required.

RAAF cyber specialists in the JOC. As per the Joint Task Force headquarters, it is in the RAAF's interest to integrate air-minded cyber specialists into the Joint Operations Command cyber planning staff. These personnel would not be part of a RAAF COPT integrated into the Joint Operations Command headquarters: rather, they would be air-minded cyber specialist permanently posted into cyber positions on the Joint Operations

444 Squadron – the future of RAAF cyber. The RAAF will not be able to grow a cyber force to support the joint fight unless it has a dedicated organization that can focus on developing the skill sets required of air-minded cyber specialists. Other cyber experts can expound on the skill requirements of the future cyber warrior, but it is reasonable to argue that the skills will take time to develop and need nurturing through the cyber professional's career. Communications technicians or avionics engineers with a one-month crash course on cyber will not magically become cyber warriors. It will take the training resources and support inherent in a squadron that specializes in cyber. To grow and sustain a cyber force, the RAAF needs a dedicated cyber squadron with a mission focus to raise, train, and sustain a cyber force that can support the delivery of air power. Such a unit could be 444 Squadron.

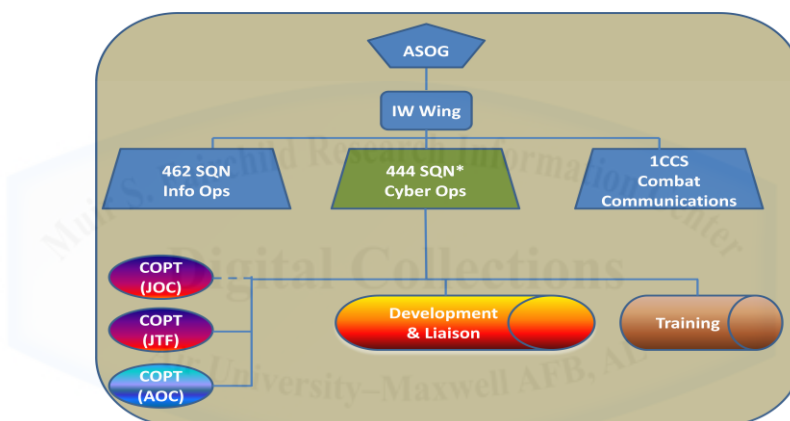


Figure 11: Organizational Structure for a Cyber Operations Squadron

Source: Author's Original Work

444 Squadron is a fictitious unit, but indicative of a unit established to deliver the cyber needs of the RAAF.²⁰⁹ The RAAF needs a cyber operations squadron to raise, train, and sustain cyber operations personnel capable of deploying as part of a COPT to Joint Operations Command, a Joint Task Force, and an Air Operations Center, as depicted in figure 11. RAAF cyber specialists would integrate in the Joint Operations Command COPT to provide air-minded perspectives to joint planning, and provide a coordination conduit to the Air Operations Center to synchronize cyber operations. Air component subject matter experts in the Air Operations Center's COPT would provide the Joint Force

²⁰⁹ 444 Squadron does not exist and never has existed as a formed unit in the RAAF. The RAAF executive can pick a historical unit or form a new unit as the unit that provides its cyber needs. 444 Squadron is used to avoid any political debates on preferences for the reformation of disbanded squadron.

Air Component Commander with air-focused computer network operations options, and synchronize cyber activities across all stages of the air tasking process and planning cycle. In addition, the elements of the COPT would have responsibility for tactical computer network defense of local information systems. The RAAF cyber unit would also grow personnel to support the CSOC and other DSD functions.

This unit is separate from an Information Operations unit, Intelligence Squadron, or a Combat Communications Unit, though there would be a large cross flow of knowledge, and potentially personnel. These units share the cyber domain to undertake many of their functions, but the mission focus and skill sets for each unit differs.²¹⁰ The requirement for separate units is analogous to the organization of flying squadrons. Flying units operate in the same domain, use pilots and other crewmembers, and operate platforms that share common performance characteristics; Super Hornet, JSF, and F/A-18 classic; C-130 versus P-3C; or C-17, Wedgetail, and KC-30. However, each of these platforms and associated squadrons has very different mission sets, its crews are trained to specific platforms, and they approach support to operational objectives through the lenses of different operational functions. Cyber operations are no different; they are just new, and if the RAAF is to gain the advantages it requires from cyberspace and provide the support the Joint Forces Commander and government will expect, then a separate cyber unit is the only real option available, short of a piecemeal approach.

Organizationally, 444 Squadron resembles most other units with operations, training, and development flights. Operations Flight manages the COPTs that deploy as part of a Joint Task Force or air component. Those specialists posted into the Joint Operations Command would have an administrative link back to 444 Squadron for career management and professional training. The Development and Liaison Flight is tasked with keeping RAAF cyber knowledge on the leading edge and nurturing the cross flow of information between the Army and Navy, Joint Operations Command, Defence Signals Directorate, and allied cyber organizations. A Training Flight bears the responsibility for initial cyber education, professional development on the cyber field, and developing an air-minded approach to cyber operations.

²¹⁰ Scott, *Interview with Squadron Leader Duncan Scott by Squadron Leader Craig Stallard*.

444 Squadron would work in parallel to the RAAF's 462 Information Squadron and Number 1 Combat Communications Squadron. As depicted in Figure 10, all three squadrons would report to an Information Warfare (IW) Wing, which would sit under the Aerospace Operational Support Group (AOSG). The Computer Network Operations element currently in 462 Squadron would transfer into 444 Squadron to form the foundation of the cyber force. This organizational structure provides the greatest opportunity for synergistic effect across the RAAF's main units devoted to information-related functions.

People

Equipment and an organizational structure are important elements to the RAAF's cyber force, but people are its most important component. In his 2008 Commander's Intent, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin reiterated, "people are the key to an effective Air Force."²¹¹ This is never truer than in the cyber realm, but if people are the RAAF's greatest strength, they also present its greatest challenge. With enough executive support, the RAAF can win a budget war and allocate sufficient funds to train and sustain a cyber force. Air Force can even overcome bureaucratic inertia to stand up a cyber squadron within the RAAF organization. The real challenge is to raise and train enough of the right people to develop a coherent cyber force, and then retain them in order to sustain a long-term cyber capability. Most members of the RAAF's organization know and understand computers, but few have the skill sets to undertake general cyber operations, and even a smaller cadre has the ability to plan and conduct air-focused Computer Network Operations. If the Air Force is to develop a cyber capability, it must confront the triad capability endemic to any function: raising, training, and sustaining a workforce that does not currently exist.²¹²

Raising the Force

Recruitment. Building a mature cyber capability is an enterprise that will take years to realize; there is no droid army of cyber warriors that can be created in short order.

²¹¹ Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin, "Commander's Intent: Air Force: One Team," Royal Australian Air Force, <http://www.airforce.gov.au/Leaders/CommandersIntent.pdf> accessed 14 Apr 11.

²¹² The RAAF's administrative functions to raise, train, and equip in support of its operational role to deliver air power roughly equates to the USAF's responsibilities to organize, train, and equip its forces.

However, this does not mean the RAAF has to resign itself to years of cyber wilderness, provided it is committed to the process. By adopting a multifaceted recruiting process that combines entry-level cyber-trained airmen, category transfers, lateral recruiting, and cyber-focused curricula at the ADF Academy, the Air Force should be able to accelerate the cyber skill levels in its new workforce.

Recruit base. A workforce study is required to determine the size of the cyber force; the breakdown of officers, airmen, defence civilians, and civil contractors; the skill sets for each element of the force; and recommendations for sustaining the force. From a RAND study into cyber resource management for the USAF, the best officer candidates for a cyber workforce would come from an Electronic Warfare or Information Operations-rated aircrew, cyber-focused intelligence officers, electronic engineers, and communication officers. Even among this pool of officers, the study recommended recruiting from specialized fields inside each category.²¹³ However, with the RAAF's relatively small force, such a luxury may not be an option, and a more adaptive training program may be required to atone for a broader recruitment base. Ideally, airmen from a communication or intelligence mustering would be the preferred candidates, as cyber-related expertise in these career fields is not uncommon.²¹⁴ Similarly, defence civilians with electrical or computer-engineering background, information technology, operational research, or cyber-related intelligence should be the primary focus of a recruiting drive.²¹⁵ Ultimately, market availability, the number of appropriately qualified personnel, and the ADF's willingness to transfer troops within a resource-constrained workforce will determine the size of the recruiting pool.

Growing a cyber force from the grass roots will take a long time, but if the RAAF is to raise a force with a strong base then, like air and space power, the fundamentals of cyber power must become embedded in the RAAF's entry-level educational institutions. At the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), bachelor degree courses in information technology engineering with computer and information systems majors are on offer; however less than 10% of the 2010 class have undertaken these majors and none

²¹³ Lynn Scott et al., *Human Capital Management for the Usaf Cyber Force*, RAND Project Airforce (Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation., 2010), 19.

²¹⁴ Scott et al., *Human Capital Management of the Usaf Cyber Force*, 21.

²¹⁵ Scott et al., *Human Capital Management of the Usaf Cyber Force*, 22.

have taken on the IT degree.²¹⁶ While a cyber workforce study is yet to be undertaken to establish any type of quota to develop and sustain a cyber force, it is clear a greater number of cyber-skilled personnel will be required. Just as an engineering qualification is essential to underpinning the skill sets required by the engineer branch, so too is a cyber-related qualification core to the maintenance of a cyber force. Equally, the curriculum of the RAAF School of Technical Training can be shaped to provide a greater emphasis on cyber-related education to better inform all RAAF technicians and serve as a lead-in to a cyber-technician course. The recruiting and education of both officer and enlisted personnel for the establishment and sustainment of a RAAF cyber force is not a short-term commitment, and the Air Force will need to seek complementary means to raise a force in the near-term.

Lateral recruiting. The RAAF should investigate accelerating its experience base through laterally recruiting serving or recently retired cyber specialists from allied military forces. Over recent years, the United States Air Force (USAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) have undertaken substantial growth in the area of cyber operations, developing cyber capabilities beyond the scope RAAF requirements. Recently separated USAF and RAF cyber operators could provide a kick-start to the RAAF's cyber gene pool, providing a base to develop training and operational knowledge. Additionally, if available uniformed positions are limited, the RAAF should consider developing a cadre of contractors or defence civilians from these overseas organizations. With appropriate remuneration packages, a civilian team could quick-start the establishment of corporate knowledge required to guide the training and development of a cyber workforce.

Skill sets. The cyber workforce, like most military elements, will be comprised of personnel with differing skill sets focused on supporting a common function. This would be analogous to technicians with electrical, mechanical, or electronic backgrounds working together to service a single type of aircraft. Therefore, it was not surprising the USAF RAND cyber workforce study recommended a mix of generalist and specialists that would combine to support the cyber fight. 'Generalist,' as indicated by the RAND study, 'would have broader experience with the operational application of cyber capabilities;

²¹⁶ The ADFA administration department provided the statistics. ADFA is a joint institution that provides military and tertiary academic education for junior officers of the RAAF, Australian Army, and Royal Australian Navy.

specialists would have expertise with specific information technologies, infrastructures, tools, and codes.²¹⁷ As a small organization, the RAAF will be better off combining mainstream skills with specific cyber skills. This approach may result in less operational depth across some cyber functions, but in a world of constrained resources, flexibility across a smaller force can be an operational multiplier. The skill sets required to undertake cyber operations in the Air Force environment would be determined by the workforce study on the size, shape, and requirements for a RAAF cyber capability. However, the analysis of a workforce study needs to be bounded if it is to be relevant to the RAAF's current and future cyber needs; this framework will be in the form of the Air Force's concept of operations for cyber.

CONOPS. A critical determinate in the development of a cyber workforce is the RAAF's concept of operations (CONOPS) for the conduct of computer network operations. A joint cyber CONOPS will provide guidance on how cyber will support the joint fight, but differing warfighting domains will drive the development of service CONOPS along domain lines. The realities of resource constraints will place boundaries on the Air Force's conduct of cyber operations, and in many ways these boundaries will shape the character of RAAF computer network operations. A CONOPS will detail how the RAAF will conduct cyber operations, and provide linkages to cyber organizations in the other services, Joint Operations Command, Defence Signal Directorate, and across international cyber agencies. The CONOPS should presage the recruiting drive, because without a clear framework of what the RAAF wants from cyber operations, a workforce study and recruiting drive would be rudderless. With some resource supplementation, the Cyber and Spectrum Operations Flight within 462SQN would be best placed to develop the Air Force's cyber CONOPS. By being the cradle of cyber knowledge within the Air Force, this flight could splinter off from 462SQN and form the nucleus of a separate cyber operations squadron.

Training the Force

Creating a cadre of people with the right aptitude for cyber is only one part of the capability triad; training them to develop an air-minded approach to cyber operations is

²¹⁷ Scott et al., *Human Capital Management of the Usaf Cyber Force*, 13.

another essential element. Air-mindedness is a state of mind airmen develop through experience and immersion in the Air Force operational environment. It describes how airmen frame issues through the lens of air power. Air-mindedness is not created in a classroom, though academic training sets the conditions to understand the application of air power; it must be developed through exposure to the application of air power and derived from experience. To forge an air-minded cyber force, the RAAF needs to balance technical training and education with operational opportunities in order that the cyber cadre perceives issues from an air power perspective. While some of this balance is possible during the initial stages of a member's basic skills and knowledge development, the major element will occur during the formative years in the cyber workforce. The challenge the RAAF faces is how to develop this air-mindedness in a cadre that is generally not air power focused

Shaping the cyber mind. The collective Air Force mind has been shaped by more than 90 years of air power operations, but the cyber mind is relatively infant. To grow the cyber force into one that perceives cyber issues from an air power perspective will require a melding with Air Force corporate knowledge. While this task is challenging it is not impossible; in fact, it happens every day. Across almost every operational capability, the RAAF trains and educates personnel in the art of air power to some degree. Intelligence officers enter the Air Force from a broad range of backgrounds, but normally with little appreciation on how to analyze an air-related issue. Through a series of air-focused courses and employment in positions that immerse them in an air power-related environment, RAAF intelligence officers develop an air-minded perspective. The cultivation of the aircrew mind begins from the very start of initial flying training. Air-mindedness is foundational to the nature of the flying trade, but requires continual shaping through operations, exercises, and courses to extend the bounds of air perceptiveness. Understanding how to fly a plane is not sufficient to appreciate the most effective ways to apply air power. Equally, being able to conduct basic cyber operations does not translate into being proficient in applying cyber in support of air operations. The same approach to shaping the perceptions of other Air Force operational categories can be adapted to shaping the cyber mind with training, education, and operational experience.

Training the cyber mind. Because it operates across all the warfighting domains, cyber is different from other capabilities; thus, training needs to be flexible to meet the specific cyber needs of the RAAF. From the initial course at 444 Squadron, training curricula must include elements of general air power theory and doctrine to raise the awareness of how to apply air power across the spectrum of war. This training includes all aspects of command and control and an introduction to friendly and adversarial combat systems. An in-depth appreciation of the planning for and application of kinetic and non-kinetic weapons is also essential to cyber education. All cyber personnel should undertake a general weaponeering course, similar to that run by the School of Air Warfare. A more specialized weaponeering course, focusing on systems analysis and the application of cyber weapons, will be required as the experience level of a cyber operator increases.

However, while theory is essential, the cyber force needs operational experience to develop its air power mind. From an early stage of their training, members should deploy with air component elements, as well as and other component command centers in order to gain an appreciation of the real-world application of combat power. This will raise the awareness of what the cyber force must defend and provide insights into how component systems can be exploited. Local exercises such as TALISMAN SABER, and international deployments such as RED FLAG, provide invaluable opportunities to interact with air power operations and to gain insight into the concepts of other friendly-force cyber operations. In the long term, all domestic and international exercises will have cyber elements, and the RAAF must adopt the attitude early that cyber is an integral part of air power—not an add-on to a force package. COPTs must participate in all major exercises.

International connections. The RAAF has a long history of personnel exchanges between international partners as a mechanism to develop broader appreciation of each other's capabilities; this tradition needs to continue within the cyber force. Alongside other air-power capabilities, the RAAF should engage with at least the USAF, RAF, and Canada in the conduct of cyber operations. The USAF leads all its partners on the development and conduct of cyber, thus, the RAAF should pursue opportunities to engage with elements of 24th Air Force, the Air Force component of U.S. Cyber Command—in particular the 624th Operations Center. As the operational arm of USAF cyber, the 624th plans, directs, coordinates, assesses, and provides command-and-control of cyber

operations in support of Air Force and Joint warfighting requirements. This exchange would provide 444 Squadron with experienced cyber operators and can accelerate the development of the training program and operational cyber capabilities. The USAF adopted a similar concept with the introduction of the C-17 Globemaster III in order to hasten the capability into service. In addition, the RAAF is building its cyber force in response to the growing prevalence of cyber activity. The RAAF should instigate regular information exchange forums between close partners to ensure it remains in step with standards and emerging cyber practices. Exchanges and international conferences are expensive, but if the Air Force is to fast-track its cyber capability, these will be necessary costs.

Developing the cyber mind. More than in any other warfighting domain, changes to operational capabilities occur rapidly within the cyber environment. To pursue advantages in the development of air-focused cyber capabilities, 444 Squadron will require a cyber laboratory as a medium for RAAF cyber operators to conduct air-focused experimentation. Such a laboratory would provide the means for cyber-trainees to develop an air-minded approach to their analysis of information systems. A cyber laboratory would be an avenue for experienced Air Force cyber specialists to push through the boundaries of current cyber practices, and to develop innovative air power employment approaches in concert with the Defence Science and Technical Organization.

Senior leadership. The heart of air power is the workforce that turns equipment into capability, but the brains that turn this capability into operational effect are the senior leadership. Leadership is the product of experience, proven performance, and authority without which the RAAF would be unable to deliver the air power expected by the Australian people. Leaders spend inordinate time learning about the capabilities they wield; air superiority, maritime strike, ISR, and airlift are but some, to name a few. Unfortunately, there is little experience within RAAF leadership in cyber operations, so if this emerging capability is to be operationally effective, senior leadership will need an education into the realm of cyber. It may take a generation before senior leaders are fully competent in cyber employment, however, tailored cyber courses will allow leaders to take ownership of the cyber capability, as well as develop a foundation for the advocacy of Air Force cyber.

Training the broader RAAF population's cyber mind. Like any new capability, cyber will take a while to gain traction with the general Air Force population. The majority of the RAAF understand the importance of cyber in their everyday lives; there are very few that have not sworn at a computer when it crashes with important data unsaved. The RAAF needs to translate this basic appreciation of computers into an awareness of just how pervasive cyber is to every facet of air power. This can be accomplished in three ways: continuance of the Pathfinder series of educational pamphlets on cyber effects on air power, incorporation of cyber elements into every operational training curriculum, and most importantly, introduction of a cyber-disruption component into major exercises. Until the broader Air Force understands the implications of cyber, and develops processes to work in and around cyber disruptions, the ability of the RAAF to sustain air power in an operational environment will be questionable.

Sustaining the Force

Sustaining a cyber force involves ensuring continuity of an operating budget and the maintenance of equipment, but the most crucial element is the sustainment of its people. The Air Force will look to the cyber force to protect its information systems from an adversary and to exploit operational opportunities across the cyber domain. If the RAAF seeks to leverage cyber systems to deliver air power against adversaries, then the management of its cyber force requires a long-term sustainment strategy to retain and promote its personnel.

Raising a new force is a large challenge, but sustaining it over the long term is the critical leg of the capability triad.²¹⁸ The development of a cyber force to support air operations mirrors the argument of Simon Worden regarding naval forces growing out of a nation's requirement to protect trade and deny trade to its adversaries. An essential need arose and the military developed a solution.²¹⁹ But to sustain an emerging workforce is beyond the capability of the operational staff—it requires senior leadership sponsorship. When the U.S Navy was growing its carrier aviation force, the pushback from regular Navy was so great that, if not for the support from Rear Admiral William Moffett, the

²¹⁸ The capability triad is the raise, train, and sustain functions required to maintain a function.

²¹⁹ Simon P. Worden and John E. Shaw, *Whither Space Power? : Forging a Strategy for the New Century* (Maxwell Air Force Base, AL: Air University Press, 2002), 100.

effect could have easily collapsed. Admiral Moffett inserted aviators into the Navy promotion system, ensuring the opportunity for command and further progression to star rank.²²⁰ Though different in scale and capability, for the moment, the cyber force requires a personnel management path that meets professional development needs and provides opportunities for career advancement.

Career killer. Chief of Air Force and senior Air Force executive backing is required to ensure RAAF officers view cyber as a career-enhancing specialization rather than a career killer. A specialist cyber officer should command 444 Squadron. A specialist cyber officer should command be made the Officer Commanding of the Information Warfare Wing in the first few years of standing up the capability. Senior Air Force leadership should make it clear that specialist cyber officers will be competitive for the Aerospace Operational Support Group position.²²¹ Without the possibility of a career path, both the numbers and quality of potential applicants will rapidly drop off and retention will become problematic. The RAAF cyber force could suffer the same fate as the RAN submarine force: resources without the force to operate them.²²² Unfortunately, the loss of an effective RAAF cyber force could have serious negative impacts on the ability to generate air power in the lead-up to and during the period of any conflict.

Summary

While the RAAF appreciates the importance of cyber to the conduct of air power, it is still in the early stages of developing a cyber force. Real-time operational pressures, budget constraints, and competition for workforce resources have all contributed to impeding the establishment of a dedicated cyber force. However, the 2009 Defence White Paper has invigorated the Air Force's resolve to raise, train, and sustain a cyber force that will support air power thought the coming decades. This quest will not be without its challenges, particularly in allocating funds for an operating budget and in the procurement

²²⁰ Stephen Peter Rosen, *Winning the Next War : Innovation and the Modern Military*, Cornell Studies in Security Affairs (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991), 77.

²²¹ In the RAAF organization structure, Wings and subordinate to Groups.

²²² Cameron Stewart, "Joel Fitzgibbon (Minister for Defence) Admits 'Challenge' Manning Collins-Class Submarines " *The Australian*(2009), <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/minister-admits-sub-serious-problem/story-e6frg6nf-1111118958313> accessed 23 Apr 11; Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)."; Attorney General, "Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (Australia)."

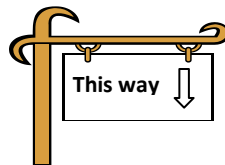
of equipment and subsequent upgrades. Organizationally, the best option for sustaining a cyber force is the standing up of a separate cyber squadron. Such a unit will bear the responsibility for the training and development of the RAAF's cyber elements. Additionally, the cyber unit will provide the nucleus for the Cyber Operations Planning Teams that will integrate into the joint, task force, and air component headquarters' command-and-control centers. The Air Force personnel within the COPTs will provide air-minded cyber perspectives to support joint and component operational planning and coordination.





Budgets and equipment maintenance may occupy much of the RAAF's administrative resources, but it is in the role of raising, training, and sustaining its workforce where the real challenges inhere; and cyber will be no exception. From the undergraduate education at ADFA to the Technical Training School, greater emphasis on cyber-related studies is required to provide a cadre of cyber-aware Air Force personnel. However, in the initial stage of building a cyber workforce, the RAAF should seek other options such as lateral-recruiting and exchange programs to accelerate the development of the Air Force corporate-knowledge base. Framing much of the development will be the production of a concept of operations that will establish what the RAAF wants from cyber and how it will undertake these operations. Using this CONOPS, the RAAF should direct a workforce study to provide a roadmap into the size, structure, and management practices needed to sustain the cyber workforce. The RAAF is relatively new to operations in the cyber domain, and to grow from its infancy today into a mature capability it will need to both erect and heed the many signposts pointing to its cyber future.

Conclusion


SIGNPOSTS FOR THE RAAF


Like many military organizations, the Australian Department of Defence is kinetically focused and structured for the planning and execution of war. Command-and-control practices transformed as the operational environment shifted, and through all the changes the ADF adopted new technologies to retain its position as a leading military power in the South-Pacific region. However, the implications of cyber operations for the ADF and the RAAF run deeper than just a shift in the operational environment. Buoyed by a renewed focus on cyber in the 2009 Defence White Paper, the RAAF is posturing to develop a cyber workforce capable of supporting the delivery of air power during both peace and war. The current level of cyber expertise within the Air Force is low and the path to a functioning, effective cyber force is long and challenging. The journey from present day to a time where cyber operations are seamlessly integrated into every air power capability requires an understanding of what cyberspace is; how it affects command and control; the evolution of Australia's strategic security environment; and where Australia, the ADF, and the RAAF are positioned for the conduct of cyber operations. This knowledge informs a general framework for the development of a RAAF cyber capability. This thesis provides insight into some of the required knowledge to develop a cyber force and provides some signposts to guide the RAAF through its cyber journey.





-  Cyberspace changed both the character of war and the practices of command and control.
-  Cyberspace is the 5th dimension of war and is a warfighting domain in its own right.
-  Cyberspace permeates all the physical domains of air, land, sea, and space.
-  Cyber operations do not eliminate uncertainty in conflict but they can diminish it.


- 🏠 Decision-making timelines for strategic maritime operations are measured in weeks, land in days, air in hours, and space in minutes; but for cyberspace operations, the timeline to make a decision could be measured in seconds.
- 🏠 Cyber provides greater flexibility in the centralization of control, but commanders need to be cautious with the 5000-mile screwdriver.
- 🏠 Information is the key to decision-making; cyber operations influence information systems.
- 🏠 Computer Network Operations (CNO) are doctrinally part of Information Operations, but the capability has grown to the extent that it is a function its own right.
- 🏠 Network Centric Warfare is not cyber operations or internet-centric warfare, nor is it information warfare; although it utilizes elements of all these functions.
- 🏠 Understanding what national security means to Australia is the first step to understanding the how to approach to cyber operations.
- 🏠 The 2008 National Security Statement provided a framework for the sustainment of the security of Australia's national interests and spawned the 2009 Cyber Security Strategy and the 2009 Defence White Paper.
- 🏠 The northern air-sea gap is not a barrier to cyber operations, as it is to air and sea.
- 🏠 The Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) bears the responsibility for the security of government information systems and conducts CNO for the ADF.
- 🏠 With the preponderance of cyber resources, DSD will conduct the majority of cyber operations, including those in support of Joint Task Force and air component objectives.
- 🏠 Gaining cyber superiority may be a stretch for the ADF, given the nature of cyberspace and the scale of available resources; asymmetric advantage in decision-making gained from cyber is a more realistic expectation.
- 🏠 The RAAF needs a cyber force to provide air-minded perspectives to the planning and conduct of all cyber operations; this is no different from the approach to kinetic capabilities or intelligence.
- 🏠 The RAAF is vulnerable to cyber attack today, and given the increasing level of cyber activity, the ability to deliver effective air power is questionable without an air-minded cyber force.


 To appreciate the effect of a cyber attack, all major exercises should incorporate a cyber-disruption component to train the Air Force to continue operating in a degraded cyber environment.

 An Air Force cyber force is essential, but constraints on resources will challenge the RAAF's ability to grow one effectively.


 Within the JTF and Air Operations Center, Air Force cyber forces should conduct the planning, integration, and coordination of cyber operations in support of the air tasking.


 Air Force representation, in the form of cyber operational planning teams (COPT), will be best placed to provide an air perspective to the planning of any cyber activity


 The size of a COPT would depend on the nature of the task and should be tailored to the scale of the operation.


 A separate cyber squadron will ensure a single, cyber-focused organization can develop the skill sets required of air-minded cyber specialists.


 People are the core ingredient to an Air Force cyber capability.

 Raising a cyber force will require a multifaceted approach to recruiting, including category transfers and lateral recruiting.

 Training the force to develop an air-minded approach to cyber operations will not be a short-term process, and it will require specialized air-related courses and experience with all aspects of the air planning and tasking process. The use of COPTs during domestic and international exercises will be essential to developing an air-minded cyber force.

 Training the broader RAAF population is vital to integrating cyber into every aspect of air power.

 Sustaining the force will be the greatest challenge. The cyber force must be able to develop professionally and with career profession opportunities.

 Senior leaders, particularly those who will wield cyber power during operations, must undertake training to appreciate cyber capabilities, as they do for other elements of air power.

If we have learned nothing else from our venture into the cyber realm, we must surely realize that those who seek to exploit our weaknesses for operational gain are every

bit as smart as we are.²²³ To be true to its vision of exploiting air power to achieve persistent and precision effects, flexibility, reach, versatility, and responsiveness, the RAAF must embrace cyber as core capability and confront the challenges placed in its path. The signposts are out there and need to be followed.



²²³ Karen Evans and Franklin Reeder, *A Human Crisis in Cybersecurity, a Report on Cybersecurity for the 44th President* (Washington DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2010), 5.

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